

# the chronicle

**Nature reserve to give up secrets to springtime walkers**

– see page 3



**Remembering old school days and the maypole**

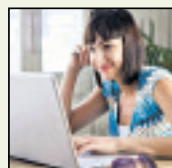
– see page 7



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## Bailiffs are left puzzled over horses

TEN roaming horses that have been wreaking havoc across Tipton have "disappeared" according to council bosses.

Bailiffs were on the streets last week to seize the animals, in the first part of a crackdown on wandering and tethered horses.

But despite an extensive sweep of the area the team could find no sign of the animals.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods said: "We have been speaking to the authorities across the borough boundaries in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley."

"No-one has seen the animals. We have been tracking them extensively, so we know the places they tend to go to, but there is no sign of them. I have even been out myself searching the streets. I am presuming they have been rounded up by their owners and taken away."

Bailiffs will be taking away tethered horses in the coming days as a continuation of the operation.

## Talks on plans for baths site

NEGOTIATIONS are going ahead over the future of a former Black Country baths site.

Coseley Baths was controversially closed in August 2009 after Dudley Council chiefs claimed the building needed urgent repairs to make the roof safe. The building in Pear Tree Lane was knocked down the following March.

Council bosses refused to say how the site could be developed as the negotiations were being conducted in private.

## Holiday activities at the Bumble Hole

A VISITOR centre in Netherton is hosting holiday activities for the family during the next few days.

On Easter Monday Bumble Hole Nature Reserve will run an Easter basket and chocolate nest making session from 10.30am-2pm. The following Monday (May 2) a guided walk, complete with cream teas, will take place from the visitor centre, again from 10.30am-2pm, at a charge of £2 per person.

## Market to open early for royal wedding

THE Big Market in Cradley Heath will be opening early on the day of the Royal Wedding so customers can stock up on goods for street parties.

The indoor market will open an hour earlier than usual at 7.30am, on Friday, April 29.

The 96-stall market will also be offering customers a free glass of wine and a slice of wedding cake during the course of the historic day.

# HOSPITAL ALERT ON RAT REPORT

**R**ATS, mice, cockroaches, wasps and ants have blighted hospitals in Sandwell over the past five years, figures show.

Reports included cockroaches in catering areas, near patients waiting in A&E and even rodents near a mortuary.

There were 954 sightings of pests at Sandwell Hospital, Rowley Regis Hospital and City Hospital between 2006 and last April.

Pest controllers dealt with 352 sightings at Sandwell Hospital alone – including 52 of cockroaches in catering areas.

More recent examples include rats near a staff smoking area and skip in January and cockroaches in a reception in December.

A kitchen at the West Bromwich hospital had to be treated for cockroaches and a wasp nest was removed.

Rodents were discovered in a kitchen and mortuary and cockroaches were also spotted near A&E and the pharmacy last May.

The hospital was also treated by pest controllers for rats and mice.

Meanwhile, pest controllers visited Rowley Regis Hospital on 39 occasions. Ants were found in the X-ray department and rodents near the mortuary door.

The details were released under the Freedom of Information Act and also revealed there were 565 cases at City Hospital in Birmingham, including ants in the maternity unit and rodents in reception.

**Inspections**

Pest controllers also removed an ants nest and tackled "crawling insects" in the neurophysiology and maternity departments.

Sarah Conlon, spokesman for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospitals, said: "Regular routine inspections of catering outlets and kitchens are undertaken to ensure nothing is undetected."

"The trust is confident we are able to deal with pests appropriately and is proactive in managing potential problems and taking all appropriate steps in the prevention of pests."

"There is no food safety issue in the trust."

The "outdated" and "poorly insulated" current vicarage serving St Mary's Church in Kingswinford, situated in Penzer Street, would be sold off under the proposals and a carbon zero house built on the ground next door.

Diocese of Worcester surveyor Mark Wild says they are looking to "build for the future in a responsible way".

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Future

More than 30 letters were submitted to the council objecting to the previous plans. It was given the go-ahead last February but was delayed while some minor changes in the design were made. A new application has now been made to Dudley Council

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Future

## Thirsty work, this dragon slaying



Olly Jake, Black Horses' marketing executive, raises a toast to St George

TWO Halesowen pubs are set to raise a toast to St George on Saturday with free drinks on offer for the patron saint's namesakes – but bosses say slaying dragons is not compulsory to qualify for a tipple.

Halesowen's two Black Horse pubs are celebrating St George's Day by giving anyone called George, Georgina, or any other name derived from George, a free drink.

Olly Jake, Black Horses' marketing executive, said: "Slaying dragons is not compulsory. It's actually unlikely that St George ever fought a dragon."

"But he has certainly become a very important person for England and we want to honour him by drinking to his memory with his namesakes."

### Relax

People will need to visit either of the pubs on Manor Way or Illey Lane on April 23 with ID proving their name and that they are over 18.

Namesakes can choose from a pint of standard lager or bitter, 175ml glass of house wine, 14oz soft drink or a cup of tea or coffee.

Manor Way pub manager Oliver Brooke says, "There have been many calls to make St George's Day a public holiday and although most of us will have to work, we can at least relax with a pint at the end of a hard day and celebrate our patron."

"We look forward to welcoming all those who share his name for a free pint, although we've no idea how many that will be."

## Fly-tipping figures rocket by 50 per cent

THE number of people caught fly-tipping in the Dudley borough has shot up by more than 50 per cent, figures reveal.

A limit on collections is blamed. There were 82 cases of fly-tipping in the 2010/11 financial year – compared with 52 in 2009/10.

The introduction of the three-bag limit for bin men to collect was blamed for the increase. Councillor Karen Jordan, who opposed the

three-bag limit, said: "In some cases, if people leave out four bags, for example, the bin men are not even taking the three they should be taking – they are just leaving all of them," she said.



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# Villagers win battle for 'proper' police station

A VILLAGE in South Staffordshire will be allowed to keep its police station, despite the present building being earmarked for the axe to cut costs, force chiefs have pledged.

The future of Wombourne Police Station has been in doubt since the announcement of £39 million of savings by Staffordshire Police.

Anxious residents presented a 1,256-signature petition to Parliament pleading for police to retain a "proper" base in the

village after the current one closes. And Staffordshire Chief Constable Mike Cunningham has now pledged the village will retain a police base.

He gave the assurance to Wombourne civic leaders.

South Staffordshire Tory MP Gavin Williamson, who attended a meeting with members of the local parish, district and county councils, said: "The Chief Constable gave an absolute guarantee of a continued police presence in Wombourne for the foreseeable future."

"I am delighted that the force have responded in such a positive way after listening to the concerns of local people. He promised that there would be a fixed presence in Wombourne with public access and a proper response base for his officers."

Mr Williamson said the Chief Constable had pledged that the current police station, which is too large, will not be closed until a suitable alternative in the village is ready to open. "The replacement will be a proper police station and not some hole-in-the-corner apology for one," he added.

Wombourne Police Station is facing closure with Staffordshire Police forced to make savings of £39m. It is among nine stations, including ones in Lichfield and Rugeley, that have been earmarked to be shut.

## Jobs joy for JLR

HUNDREDS more jobs are on the way at car maker Jaguar Land Rover. The firm has launched a major recruitment drive for around 300 staff to work in sales, purchasing, finance and product development.

## Road safety work complete

WORK to improve safety on a blackspot road in Tipton has been completed. St Mark's Road, which has seen 14 people seriously hurt and one man killed in recent years, has benefited from £95,000 of improvement measures. These include speed bumps, pedestrian crossings and improved signs and road markings. The speed limit has also been reduced to 20mph. Residents, relatives of people injured in crashes and Black Country coroner Robin Balmain have all campaigned for improvements to the road.

## Bands and clean cars coin in cash

A FREE arts and music event in the Black Country raised £200 for a youth group.

More than 100 people attended the event in the Conegre Youth Arts Centre, Sedgley Road East, Tipton.

Performances came from artists including Mary Christie, Playing with Hammers and the Avant Garde band.

There was a live DJ in the foyer – and even a car wash. Members of Conegre's

Brass Monkey project spent six weeks planning the event, which took place recently.

They pledged the money raised will go towards fixing equipment at the centre.

## Talent

Artist Matt Lloyd said: "I had the opportunity to work alongside young people with their visual arts project of mural painting."

"It was really exhilarating seeing the amount of talent about the building."

## Home truths shared on the road



Emma Jones from Stourbridge, and Dennis Harper and Peter Hartsorne promote the roadshow

A ROADSHOW was due to tour Brierley Hill today (Thursday) to promote the work of tenants and residents associations in the borough.

It follows the Dudley Council publishing its document outlining its commitments on how it intends to manage homes and estates in the future.

They include ensuring properties are maintained to decent homes standard as a minimum and carrying out emergency repairs within 24 hours, urgent repairs within three working days, and routine repairs within 15 working days.

Wren's Nest and Beacon Hill tenants and residents associations (TRAs) have organised a roadshow to enable people to find out more about what they expect from the authority.

People can go along to meet tenants and council staff from 10am to 4pm. The roadshow will park up at Moor Street, Brierley Hill and the tour will come to a close at Dudley town centre on Saturday (April 23).

## Rubbish dumping runs up huge bill

COUNCILS are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds clearing up rubbish fly-tipped across the region.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show the extent to which lazy litterers are costing huge amount of taxpayers' cash to clean up.

Dudley spent £54,848 in 2009/10. Wolverhampton City Council spends an estimated £225,000 a year on the problem and Sandwell Council £213,000.

Sandwell Council executive cabinet member Mahboob Hussain, said they had to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds because people "thoughtlessly and selfishly" dump rubbish.

## Checked

"It is a crime, plain and simple, and I would encourage everyone to help clean up their neighbourhoods by reporting illegally dumped waste."

Rubbish is checked for information indicating addresses for prosecutions.

John Millar, director of the urban environment at Dudley Council, said: "Fly-tipping and littering of any kind is totally irresponsible and something that we will not tolerate in Dudley."

"We do not hesitate, where possible, to prosecute people who have dumped their rubbish and would ask borough residents to be our eyes and ears by reporting this kind of anti-social behaviour to Dudley Council."

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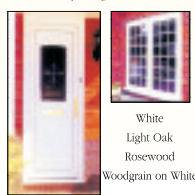
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# Leisure hub plan 'at risk of delay'

## Walk into borough's past



Community development officer Jessica Welch gets ready for the nature reserve walk

WALKERS will be given a glimpse into the Dudley's ancient past during a walk around a borough nature reserve on Saturday (April 23).

Wardens will lead a stroll around Wren's Nest Nature Reserve where people can learn about the origins and history of fossils and minerals they had found.

The walk, which starts at 10am, is one of a number of events taking place at sites around the

borough this month. Also on Saturday, Dudley Canal Trust will host a trip to Dudley's famous limestone mines through extensive tunnels and caverns.

The day costs £5 per person and participants are advised to take a packed lunch and drink.

At Wren's Nest on April 27 from 10am to 12.30pm there is a chance to see what is special about spring limestone flora.

Places need to be booked on 01384 812785.

THE creation of a multi-million pound leisure and tourism hub in Dudley has been put at risk of "serious delay" after a funding bid to kickstart the project was turned down, opposition councillors warned.

The warning comes after three Black Country tourist attractions were dealt a £2million kick in the teeth as the region lost out on any money from the Regional Growth Fund.

Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust had submitted a joint bid for the cash. The money would have been used to create a road linking the three sites to Tipton Road, Dudley. It would also have funded a land train ferrying visitors between the sites.

### Economy

Leader of the Labour group at Dudley Council and the Local Government Association, David Sparks, said the scheme was a vital part of work to boost the region's economy.

"We can give up on this project. We need to diversify the Black Country economy and create jobs in tourism and construction, and this would have done just that," he said.

"The project is now at risk of serious delays which the region can little afford."

"We will now have to rethink and resubmit a bid."

He said the decision was the first tangible result of the abolition of regional development agency Advantage West Midlands. "If AWM was still in existence we would have got this money as it had earmarked funds for this project," he added.

Deputy council leader Councillor Les Jones vowed that the decision would not affect the wider £40million plan for the Castle Hill area.

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## Hunt for energy heroes

CASH prizes are up for grabs for an awards scheme in Dudley promoting the environment.

The Dudley climate change group's energy heroes awards is looking for nominations from individuals, households, schools, community groups and businesses.

The event recognises projects that contribute to reducing energy and carbon emissions. Winners will receive up to £250 project cash. The deadline for entries is May 9. For more information call 01384 814403 or visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/energyheroes](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/energyheroes)

## Exhibits find roots in Black Country

A WORLD famous photographer's exhibition about his Black Country roots, which made its debut in Paris, has been unveiled to the public.

The exhibition, entitled The Black Country, was inspired by Halesowen-born artist Brian Griffin's childhood and his experiences growing up in the region and his working years in factories.

The show has just been revealed to visitors at The New Art Gallery in Walsall, where it will

remain until June 19. Many of the images focus on the factory worker, a role Mr Griffin himself played after leaving school at 16 at New Bank Construction in Halesowen and Rapid Conveyors of Lye, and one his parents occupied throughout their working lives.

## Location

His mother worked at William Foxhall & Sons, Lye, packaging nails while his father was a horizontal borer working for various factories throughout his life. Photographs were taken on location at various factories in Lye and Cradley Heath, including Solid Swivel, Boro Foundry and Holtite Ltd, starring actors and featuring Black Country chain-makers.

Family photographs and Mr Griffin's written accounts of childhood also accompany the exhibition. "I hope people will look at these photos and get the sense of what a great place it was to grow up," said Mr Griffin, aged 62, who also staged the exhibition in Paris.



Brian Griffin is seen with his new exhibition

## Bus destination signs confusing

BUS passengers have been left confused after drivers on some services in the West Midlands stopped changing destination signs due to health and safety fears.

Drivers on some National Express West Midlands buses have been told it is too dangerous to get out and change the rear signs on the buses so have been instructed by National Express not to use them.

Only some routes are affected because it is the older buses that have manual rather than automatic destination blinds.

The destination blinds at the front of the buses are still in use.

Sandwell Councillor Les Pawlowski was first informed of the problem at

Sandwell Transport Users Forum. "We asked National Express about this and they explained that drivers had been told not to change the rear signs because it was inconvenient and dangerous to change them at certain points on the route."

## Important

He added: "I fully understand that this did cause some confusion and frustration for bus users because obviously they didn't know where they were going."

He added: "What is important to realise is this is getting resolved as the older buses are being phased out of use and the new buses have automatic display signs. The bus company is dealing with this problem and it is progressing."

## Fundraising really is no drag



Delightful in pink - best dressed runner was Liam Fletcher

A CHARITY fun run in the Black Country proved to be a drag race with a difference.

The event at Baggeridge Country Park raised at least £3,000 for Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.

The theme was "men in drag" and lots of the runners dressed accordingly.

Volunteer fundraiser Lucy Pritchard and her friends and family organised the run on April 9 to raise funds for the charity and to raise public awareness of men's cancers.

Prizes, including a sports car gift experience day worth £200, were awarded for the funniest dressed, most money raised and the fastest runner.

Lucy said, "We'd like to thank everyone who took part."

## Progress

"It was a fantastic day and we raised a lot of money to help beat cancer."

"The efforts that people went to with their fancy dress were amazing! There was a real sense of fun on the day, which was brilliant."

Cancer Research UK area volunteer manager Leonie Hudson said: "Lucy and her friends and family worked really hard to pull together a terrific event in aid of the charity and we are very grateful to them for that."

"All of our research is funded by donations from the public - we couldn't make the progress that we do without support from events like this."

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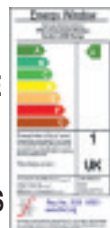
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## Traders' petition on road closures

TRADERS have formed an action group to tackle council bosses and utility companies about an 18-month-long programme of roadworks affecting 64 streets in Dudley town centre.

Shopkeepers claim there has been no consultation and fear the scheme could cause disruption to their businesses if not managed properly.

Dudley Council said not all roads affected would be closed at any one time.

About 30 business owners signed a petition organised by newly-formed Dudley Town Road Closure Action Group in a bid for talks on a scheme which may start next week.

### Heart

Ving Tsau, of The Coffee Shop, Rutland Passage, said: "The local business traders and the shoppers are the heart of Dudley town centre, and to disrupt the region in such a mass scale without informing the affected parties is totally unacceptable."

Keith Hackett, 65, who manages Josephines Baby Shop, High Street, said: "All we want is a schedule of the works just so we know what to expect."

Council director of the urban environment John Millar said they would ensure works are completed in 18 months as opposed to being dragged out over a number of years.

# Peppa Pig's return puts young fans in the pink

PEPPA Pig finally hogged the limelight at Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre as she showed she was 'sow sorry' for leaving hundreds of children down in the dumps when she failed to turn up for a series of shows.

Peppa and her brother George were greeted by more than 100 youngsters last Wednesday as she did a special trot-about to make up for letting them down yesterday.

The pair had a pig of a day when they got stranded with a flat tyre on the M40 the day

before which was then compounded by a more serious wheel problem.

It made a pig's ear of their plans to entertain youngsters, who had queued with their parents for tickets for one of five shows.

The situation was made even worse when a large number of parents complained they had been unable to get tickets, despite queuing from early morning with many youngsters left in tears.

But eventually it was all smiles as Peppa and George walked along the growing line of families waiting for the first show. First in the queue was Maddison Sanders, aged two, of Wollaston, Stourbridge, dressed in a Peppa Pig outfit, with her mother, Heidi, aged 40.

Mrs Sanders said her daughter was disappointed after the cancellation and "fell asleep in her pram because we were here from 8.30am until 11.45am."

She added: "We were first here today (last Wednesday) to make sure she didn't miss it again."

And Wayne Hawkes, 39, of Ashdene Gardens, Wordsley, who swapped his shifts as a driver to bring daughter Olivia, aged two, back to see Peppa, said: "She loved meeting her favourite character."

### Sorry

Peppa Pig was unable to comment as a spokesman said: "In her world she is only four years old."

But David Scott, managing director of Rainbow Productions, which organises her character appearances, said they were "very sorry" for everyone who turned up to see Peppa last Tuesday but had made immediate arrangements for her to return the following day.



Jennifer Bridge, from Netherton, with daughter Sophie, 19 months, meet Peppa Pig and George



Parents and children seen queuing at The Merry Hill Shopping Centre to see children's favourite Peppa Pig

## Twelve to lose day centre jobs

A DAY centre for adults in Stourbridge is to close with the loss of 12 jobs following a shake-up of council services.

Stourbridge Centre in Mere Road, which runs activities for people with learning disabilities, will shut later this year, bosses at Dudley Council have said.

It follows changes to day centres across the country, giving people more choice about the activities they take part in. It means people can now attend sessions at leisure centres and community centres rather than just traditional day centres.

The council's assistant director for learning disabili-

ties and mental health, Richard Carter, confirmed 12 workers have taken voluntary or compulsory redundancy while a further four have left the authority ahead of its impending closure.

He said: "The cabinet approved proposals to reprove services delivered at the Stourbridge Centre in order to implement a new way of working which would give people greater choice."

People will instead have a personal budget which they can use to access activities of their choice at a wide range of venues such as leisure centres and community centres. He added some would be able to use the Ambleside Centre, due to reopen in September.

## More hard shoulder motoring

OPENING the M6 hard shoulder to traffic is to extend for a further nine-miles in a scheme that may cost up to £211 million.

Last month drivers were able to use the hard shoulder between Junction 8 for the M5 and Junction 10a for Epsom.

Roads Minister Mike Penning said the scheme will expand to cover between Junction 8 and Junction 5 for Castle Bromwich where it will link with a project already in

place between junctions 4 and 5 and a 10-mile stretch of the M42 between junctions 3a and 7.

Once completed it will mean the West Midlands will have the longest stretch of hard shoulder running in Britain - about 30 miles from the Black Country to Warwickshire. The £150m scheme between junctions 8 and 10a is being hailed a success.

## Matches ban for violence at game

A FOOTBALL fan from the Black Country has been banned from matches for 10 years and jailed for violent behaviour at a Champions League match.

Manchester United fan Matthew Bolton, aged 26, admitted breaching the peace before a game against Rangers at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow.

Bolton, of Dudley Close, Rowley Regis, was sent to prison for nine months and handed one of the longest football orders issued by a Scottish court.

### Previous

Glasgow Sheriff Court heard how Bolton broke through a cordon of police officers and police horses to get to a group of Rangers fans.

A Crown Office spokesman said he had a number of previous convictions from English courts for football-related disorder.

Prosecutor Miss Lesley Thomson said: "Disorderly conduct and violence at football matches will not be tolerated."

Any conduct of this nature will be robustly investigated.

She added: "If they plead or are found guilty, the Crown will advise the court of its power to impose Football Banning Orders for such offences."

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### thechronicle



Above, the striking wave-shaped design of the £77 million Sandwell College, below, Moat Farm pupils nine-year-old Lewis Hurley, left, and Jamel Lawrence, 10 show vice chair of governors Mike Beardsmore the college flag they have designed and, inset, the boys with John Tew, chair of governors, and principal Val Bailey



## College on crest of a wave as distinctive shell finished

THE wave-shaped shell of the new £77million Sandwell College has been completed, giving a striking impression of how the building will look when it is finished later this year.

The superstructure of the seven-storey building is now in place at the Spon Lane site in West Bromwich, which is set to become home to 10,000 students next year.

A "topping out" ceremony was held at the Spon Lane site last Friday to mark the completion of the skeleton, with civic dignitaries including the Mayor of Sandwell,

Councillor Pauline Hinton, West Bromwich and Warley MPs and chairman of governors John Tew.

Balloons were launched from the top of the new college by two year five Moat Farm Junior School pupils, Lewis Hurley and Jamel Lawrence.

### Proud

They boys were invited to attend the ceremony after winning a flag design competition organised in partnership with the school and college. The school is an official partner of the college in its new trust

status and the two boys saw their design displayed on the podium.

The building is next to West Bromwich Ringway. Work started in September 2009 and is due to finish this autumn, with the first students due to move in during January 2012.

Principal Val Bailey said: "We are delighted to be providing the local community with a college to be proud of and we look forward to helping deliver a future for the people of Sandwell."

The campus will replace those in West Bromwich, Oldbury and Smethwick.

## Cleaner made £44,000 false benefit claims

A CLEANER falsely claimed more than £44,000 in benefits after failing to declare that she was living with her partner, a court heard.

Mother-of-two Lorraine Sullivan, of Lawrence Road, Cradley Heath, pleaded guilty to three charges.

The charges involved falsely claiming housing benefit, council tax, income support and jobseekers allowance between December 2005 and December 2009.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "She was claiming as a single parent who was living alone."

But in December 2005 she was living with her partner and she failed to declare the changes in her circumstances."

Mr Jackson said investigations by Sandwell Council found that her partner had used the 40-year-old's address for credit checks and to register a car with the DVLA and it was where his employer Corus believed that he lived.

Mr Jackson told the court that in total, Sullivan falsely claimed £12,777 in housing benefit, £2,557 in council tax benefit and £28,783 in income support and jobseekers allowance.

### Alcohol

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said she had not told the authorities about her change in circumstances due to her uncertainty about her relationship with her partner.

He said that she did not expect the relationship to blossom into what it became.

Mr Fowler added that her partner "might have been expected, based on previous form, to remain for a short while and then be absent again".

He added that the prosecution which had been pending since December 2009 had a "dire effect" on Sullivan's health.

He said she has a severe alcohol problem and admits that she was "frittering away the income she did have for the children on alcohol".

Judge Michael Challinor said: "It was quite clear that you were not fraudulently claiming from the start."

"I am satisfied that in terms of your relationship you weren't sure whether your partner was going to stay with you."

Judge Challinor sentenced Sullivan to 26 weeks in prison suspended for 18 months. He ordered her to complete 200 hours of unpaid work and ordered her to pay £500 costs.



Cavendish House in Dudley has been empty since 2008

## Hotel plans for former office block are revived

A HOTEL plan to transform an derelict office block in Dudley town centre has been revived after talks were struck up with potential buyers.

Cavendish House in Trindle Road has stood empty since a security firm moved out in 2008.

It was originally part of the master-plan for the town's regeneration but struggled to attract interested parties following the recession.

Plans to turn the site into a hotel appeared to have been scrapped when talks stalled but the owners now say a chain is interested in taking it over.

Discussions are at an early stage but owners Abstract say there have been some "positive developments".

Associate director Muhammad Hassan said: "We are very positive that someone will be found to take over the building, and a hotel is a real possibility."

"In the past we have had talks with people but for whatever reason they

have not come to anything." Mr Hassan said he could not yet reveal any specific details as private meetings were continuing but he hoped that an announcement would be made soon.

When plans for the town were unveiled in 2008 it was originally hoped that Cavendish House could be transformed into a hotel with 150 bedrooms.

But discussions stalled leaving the owners Abstract shelling out about £250,000 a year on its upkeep, insurance and security costs.

### Uncertain

Mr Hassan said companies were reluctant to invest while the economy and jobs market was uncertain.

But he said that confidence in the economy is now growing again and firms were more willing to invest.

Deputy Dudley Council leader Les Jones has said he would prefer the building to be used for offices but said he would welcome any development – except another supermarket.



## Job queues fall but area still above the average

JOB queues have shrunk in Dudley as unemployment nationwide fell by 17,000 to 2.48 million last month, giving the economy a much-needed boost.

Official figures last week showed that in the West Midlands the jobless queues fell by 4,000 in the three months to February to 260,000.

In Dudley there was a fall of 50 to 9,722 or five per cent of the borough's working population – slightly above the national average claimant rate of 4.4 per cent.

The claimant count in Kidderminster and the Wyre Forest district fell by 98 to 2,254 or 3.7 per cent.

## Parents launch legal fight over plight of little Josiah

THE parents of a brain-damaged Black Country boy have launched a legal bid to establish whether hospital blunders are to blame for his condition.

They allege their son Josiah Ellis, now aged two, was starved of oxygen during his birth at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, which led to him developing cerebral palsy.

Lotti and Marc Ellis, aged 35 and 43, from Sedgley have now contacted a solicitor who is investigating the matter.

Mrs Ellis said: "We love our son no matter what and I am grateful that he managed to survive."

But she said he had been deprived of a normal future.

Mrs Ellis was taken to Russells

Hall after her waters broke shortly before midnight on January 15, 2009.

It is alleged she was left under the care of a junior midwife and never saw a senior midwife or doctor throughout her delivery, even when things became difficult.

The family also says Josiah was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck and had to be revived by an emergency resuscitation team, which then rushed him to a special care unit.

### Devastated

Josiah was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 20 months, meaning.

He has poor coordination, difficulty controlling his body and also suffers from involuntary movements.

Speaking out during National Birth Trauma Awareness Week, which took place last week, Mrs Ellis added: "I was devastated when I didn't hear Josiah's first cry. It took six minutes to stabilise him and he suffered brain injuries due to lack of oxygen."

"After 20 months we finally received the diagnosis every parent dreads to hear: cerebral palsy."

Lindsay Gibb, a medical law specialist with Irwin Mitchell solicitors, representing the couple said: "We are in the early stages of investigating what happened to Lotti and Josiah." A spokesman for Russells Hall Hospital chief executive Paula Clark said: "The trust is unable to comment on individual patients due to patient confidentiality."



Josiah Ellis with parents Mark and Lotti

## Mayor's Bavarian farewell

A CHARITY Bavarian night is being organised by Sandwell Mayor Councillor Pauline Hinton as she celebrates the end of her year in office.

The evening will include a meal and music from the Barry Schmidt Bavarian Band.

Tickets are already on sale for the event which is being held on May 18 from 7.30pm at The Regis in Cradley Heath.

Councillor Hinton said: "I have had a marvellous year as mayor, I have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been wonderful meeting so many people."



Frances Hamilton and Pat Willets spot themselves on a picture



Michael Writtle and head Carol Sibley look at the displays



Distant memories - Mayor John Harry Molyneux at the opening

## Hey ...that's us dancing around the old maypole

FACES from a bygone era have stepped back in time to visit their old school in the Black Country.

Former pupils paid a visit to Dudley Wood Primary School for a reunion event as part of the school's 80th birthday celebrations. It first opened its doors on April 15, 1931 in a ceremony presided over by the Mayor John Harry Molyneux.

Back then students were taught in the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, the cane was used as a punishment and in its early days there were only around 100 or so students on the roll.

Now there are 430 pupils and lessons feature include topics such as French. There is also a raft of extra curricular activities on offer.

The school has even recently had the chance to work with an actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company on a recent drama project. The reunion was organised by retired BT engineer Michael Writtle who attended the school between 1943 and 1949. The 72-year-old who now lives in Wordsley said: "The school has changed quite a lot over the years, when I was here there was an air raid shelter."

He was joined at the event by his 76-year-old sister Pat Hill from Kingswinford who joined the school in 1939.

The former typist said: "Things have changed a lot over the years. I know my grandchildren were able to use a computer from around three-years-old. It has been lovely to see everyone again."

Headteacher Carol Sibley mingled with the former pupils, she said: "The reunion was a really lovely event, we also hope to have a party as well."

### Tradition

Leading tours of the Dudley Wood Road school was site manager, Hazel Wood, herself a former pupil.

She attended the school between 1952 and 1955 and has been back there working for around the last 18 years.

One thing which has remained a tradition at the site is maypole dancing – with the school's original maypole still in use.

Pictured at some maypole dancing at the school around 1947 were 71-year-old Pat Willets and Frances Hamilton, aged 72. Both said they could not believe how much had changed over the years.

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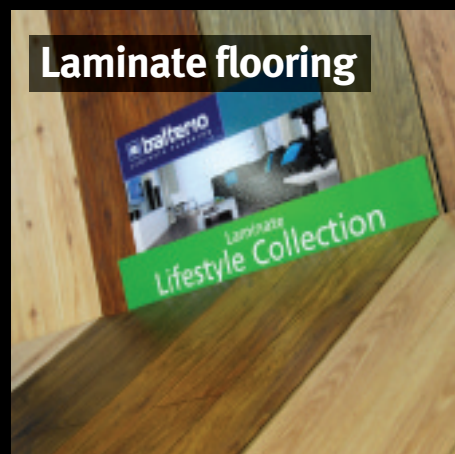
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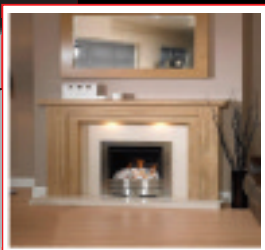
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**thechronicle****Branding  
change  
for group**

LOCAL charity Age Concern Dudley is celebrating changing its name and branding to become Age UK Dudley.

The new name recognises the organisation's partnership with the national charity Age UK, the new force combining Age Concern and Help the Aged. Age UK Dudley will work with the national charity to make later life better for local people.

Sally Huband, Age UK Dudley's Chief Officer,

said: "We are delighted to be part of Age UK. We believe that working together with a network of local Age UKs across the country as well as the national charity represents a wealth of benefits for people in later life in Dudley borough. Working closely with Age UK will mean we can continue and improve the great work we already do for older people." For more information about Age UK Dudley call 01384 354 508 or visit [www.ageukdudley.org.uk](http://www.ageukdudley.org.uk)

# **Derelict Labour Club fails to attract buyer**

**Pupils get ahead for charity cash**

CHILDREN at a Kingswinford school donned hats for the day to help raise funds for a good cause.

The event was held at Crestwood School in support of Brain Tumour Research.

The charity is particularly connected to the Bromley Lane school as ex-pupil Becky Palmer who left in 2007, lost her fight against a brain tumour in December last year at the age of 19 after being diagnosed the previous January.

Becky's mum Louise Palmer, of Kingswinford said: "I am grateful of their efforts and Becky would have been as well. "She would have been chuffed to see what was being done in her memory."

Crestwood school spokeswoman Kay Stringtellow added: "We hope that our wear a hat day will help to raise the profile of this type of cancer and also allow us to fondly remember one of our ex students."

NHS Staff in Dudley, where Mrs Palmer works, have also been fundraising in Becky's memory as have the colleges in Stourbridge and Sandwell.



Adam Kenwick, aged 13, with other youngsters who donned hats for the day

A FORMER Black Country social club which closed down after a drop in membership has failed to attract a single offer in six months on the market.

There have been two viewings since Brierley Hill Labour Club shut in October. No offers have been made to buy the derelict building. Administrators have ruled out slashing the £325,000 asking price and admit that it could be on the market for at least a year. The club went into administration after it lost thousands of pounds when trade plummeted.

Nearby residents say the Pearson Street club, which attracted hundreds of regulars during its 1970s heyday, has become a magnet for vandals and anti-social behaviour.

**Important**

Linda Clayton, insolvency manager at administrators Begbies Traynor, who have taken control of the property, said: "There has been no real interest so far but these things can take a long time."

The club was often packed during election results nights and was used for Labour Party meetings up until the late 1990s. In recent years, shoppers were allowed to use the car park but this failed to bring in extra trade.

The 8,000 sq ft site had been used for regular live music events but saw business fall off in recent years, and membership numbers also fell.

Local resident Jim Charles, aged 68, of Talbot Street, said: "It was once a really important part of the community, and now it is derelict – there are gangs standing around there most nights."

Any proceeds from a sale would go towards paying off the brewery's loan.

**Advertisement****Doreen's story**

I have so much to thank Mr Burchell for... his advice and wonderful treatment.

I had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a lot of treatment in hospital. The implants I were advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn't heard of the procedure for dentures, but how glad I am that I took Mr Burchell's advice.

To say I am pleased with my new teeth is an understatement.

They are absolutely perfect and a pleasure to wear. I love to show them off. The difference the implants make to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really is life-changing for me.

I found Mr Burchell's expertise second to none and he went to so much trouble to make each visit to the clinic a pleasure.

In the past I would have to consider what food to eat and there was always a problem with food particles becoming trapped under the bottom denture. I no longer have any problem at all and do not have to consider what food I should have or how to eat it.

Life has changed dramatically. The



dentures are so stable I no longer have to cut an apple to eat it. Another great benefit is that I don't have to continually wash my dentures. I can understand how people would feel nervous about having implants. I am 81 and certainly don't feel too old to invest in such a life-changing experience.

**Peter's story**

I can eat anything, but that's not always been the case. It's as if I have my natural teeth back and I cannot believe the difference.

Having read good reports of Mr Burchell's reputation at fabricating realistic, natural-looking, well-fitting dentures, I made an appointment to see him.

On my first consultation I explained the difficulty I was having in stopping my lower dentures from moving around and not being retained in a comfortable position.

He suggested I visited implant dentist Jonathan Pugh to determine if I would be suitable for the procedure.

I agreed, but not without reservation due to procedure involved. My consultation with Mr Pugh was professional and reassuring and the X-rays he took showed I had sufficient bone to support two implants which could secure my lower denture.

The insertion of the implants was painless – no different to having a filling.

Mr Burchell fitted my perfectly-crafted dentures, securing them to the implants.

They were a superb fit, a situation I



had not experienced for a number of years. While initial costs may appear high, having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision.

The stability of the denture is just great and I can happily go to any restaurant without thinking about what suitable choice might be on the menu.

# **TRANSFORMATIONS**

SOMEONE once said: "A smile happens in a flash, but its memory can last a lifetime."

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false teeth which can look and feel like your own. Many people complain they never meet the person who makes their dentures, but now you can as we craft your teeth from start to finish in our practice.

The responsibility of enhancing an individual smile with natural-looking false teeth is not taken lightly and never before has our work been so exacting as we strive to remain on the very cusp of a denture revolution. 'Natural' is our hallmark, as we bring some 26 years' experi-

ence to create not only a unique smile, but functional dentures too.

For our implants work we exclusively use implant dentist Jonathan Pugh, who is based in Wolverhampton. We have trusted, long-standing professional relationship with him.

The team is regularly surprised and humbled by the transforming nature of the clinic's work.

For many satisfied patients, our natural-looking teeth and attention to detail has become their natural choice – take a look at their stories.

**Terry's story**

I'm a confident guy, you know, nothing really keeps me down – even when things are not good. But I had nine years of trouble with my teeth and eventually it began to erode my confidence.

I would never have believed it; I'd have a laugh about it, but it really isn't funny when you have unresolved problems with false teeth.

Dentist eventually referred me to Mr Burchell to see if there was some way of making my plates fit properly. The difference now is a world apart. My plates fit perfectly, look like my real teeth and I can live life impulsively once again. Before, if I was going to a restaurant, I would have to use a fixative to secure my teeth. That was okay if I could eat within a couple of hours of using

the fixative. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously, I had never been in contact with an actual denture-maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at every point was excellent. My teeth were well worth the money – what price can you put on being able to eat normally and socialise without embarrassment?

My confidence is back and Mr Burchell did everything he said he would: That my teeth would fit, I would be able to chew properly and they'd look real, totally natural. To sum up, there's nothing I have attempted to eat, which I have not been able to.



# Couple of gems marking 60 years



The couple's earliest picture



Ray and Barbara Skidmore celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary

BLACK Country great-grandparents Ray and Barbara Skidmore are still bowling each other over after 60 years of marriage.

Mr and Mrs Skidmore, of James Dee Close, Quarry Bank, who are both keen bowlers, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

The couple, who have six children, 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, celebrated the milestone with a get-together for family and friends at the Dudley Arms pub, in Himley.

The couple are dedicated members of Baggeridge Bowls Club, at The Straits, Lower Gornal.

## Delighted

They met in 1948 at a dance at the Glider Dome, an ice skating rink in Dudley High Street. They were married at Dudley Reg-

ister Office in 1951. Mrs Skidmore worked at The Maypole, a grocery shop in Dudley, and Mr Skidmore was a draughtsman for Braithwaite and Company engineers, in West Bromwich.

Mrs Skidmore, now 78, said one of the secrets of a successful marriage was sharing interests. She said: "We have always enjoyed hobbies together. Celebrating a diamond wedding is a real achievement and we are delighted."

# Love lights up life for platinum pair

A COUPLE married for nearly three-quarters of a century still cannot bear to be apart, decades after they met walking through a Black Country town.

Harry Bryan visits his love Vera at Island Court Care Home, in Bourne Street, Coseley, every day.

She went into the home two years ago after being forced to use a wheelchair when she broke her hip.

And the couple, who are now aged 92 and 90, last week celebrated 70 years of marriage with a platinum anniversary party buffet and singer at the home.

Mr Bryan said: "We have always loved our time together and I visit every day. It's brilliant that we've been together this long and had such good children."

A 17-year-old Harry met Vera while strolling around Bilston and they were married six years later at Christchurch in Coseley.

The pair, who are great-grandparents to three, were as inseparable then as they are now, working together at Sankey's works in Bath Street, Bilston, until the outbreak of war.

The couple were temporarily forced apart while Harry served in Italy and Germany in The 7th Queen's Own Hussars as a mech-



Platinum day - Harry and Vera Bryan, from Coseley, celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary and right, their Big Day in 1941



anised tank driver. He later returned to work at the former Phoenix Glass Works in Bilston. At that time, Mrs Bryan was working for Cannon, making gas cookers and fires.

## Secret

She said: "We no longer worked together but we used to love to go dancing, Latin American, any

style really, when we were together.

"The secret to our happiness though is family.

"Even if we had a quarrel we would forget about it because we had such a good family."

Daughter Tina, who has brothers Michael and Dean and sister Dallas, said: "Mum couldn't bear for him not to be around."

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at The Lakeside



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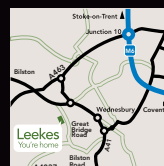
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# May Day celebration chance to see plans

## Powering along will help with fitness

A NEW piece of equipment is proving a hit with visitors to a Cradley Heath leisure centre.

The Power Plate at the Haden Hill centre helps to burn fat, reduce cellulite, enhance muscle tone, improve balance and increase strength by using vibrations to give muscles a high-speed workout.

The apparatus activating many muscle groups at the same time. They are used for performance enhancement by many professional sports teams and Olympic athletes to help prepare for the rigours of competition.

### Latest

Haden Hill is thought to be the only centre in the Black Country to have the latest Pro6 model.

Sandwell Leisure Trust gym officer Paul Badhams said: "We are committed to providing the best equipment possible."

Power Plate programmes with trained members of staff can be booked by calling Haden Hill Leisure Centre on 0845 659 4815 and selecting option 0.



Gym instructor Laura Fisher on the Power Plate

VISITORS to Dudley's historic Priory Park can find out more about work on a long-awaited £2.6 million overhaul at a celebration on May 1.

The project includes redevelopment of the park's pavilion, which will be revamped to provide new public toilets, a base for a park ranger and educational and community facilities.

The plans also include installation of lighting at the priory ruins and a range of other works such as planting avenues of trees and repairing path surfaces around the site. This will allow better access and installing new signs, artwork and sculptures.

There will also be improvements to drainage and resurfacing of the five-a-side football pitch and bowling green.

The Friends of the Priory Park and Green joined forces with Dudley Council to apply for just under £1.8m worth of funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, under the Parks for People programme, to help pay for the work. The remaining £800,000 of funding will come from Dudley Council and other contributors.

The friends group is hosting a May Day celebration between 11am and 4pm around the priory park ruins.

A number of activities and entertainment will be on offer including a bouncy castle, face painting, a prom gown fashion show, Morris dancing and a classic car display. It is hoped the event will increase awareness of the improvements planned for the park.

## Wake-up walk to sounds of the dawn symphony

WALKERS are invited to enjoy the symphony of the dawn chorus at Bunker's Hill Wood in Norton near Stourbridge.

The Stourbridge local group of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is offering people the chance to discover which birds are singing and why. The event, taking place on May 1, International Dawn Chorus Day, starts at 4.30am. Participants should meet at Whittington Hall Lane at the entrance to Bunker's Hill Wood. The cost is £1 for adults but children can go for free.

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# More trains claim if speed track is built

## Workers set up own operation

THREE former Dudley Council workers have set up shop on their own to open a new day centre.

Aimed at adults with disabilities, it will offer services such as art sessions, gym, needle work and gardening.

Park View Community Ltd is based at the Paradise Centre, formerly the Sons of Rest Building, in Buffery Park and has been set up by Janet Barton, David George and Susan Webb who all used to work for Dudley Council.

They say they were inspired to launch the company because they think there is a gap in the service being offered by Dudley Council ahead of the impending closure of Stourbridge Centre where all three used to work and both Janet and David were made redundant.

Their new service costs £35 per day to attend and runs between 9am and 4pm.

Mrs Webb, from Pensnett, said that they had received a lot of interest before they opened earlier this month.

"We decided to do this because we feel there is a gap in services for adults with disabilities. It is a new venture and a new prospect," she said.



Councillor Sue Greenaway, Leslie Dean, Deputy Mayor Michael Evans, Janet Barton from Park View Community Ltd, Lynn Horton, friend and resident of Buffery Park, David George and Susan Webb from Park View Community Ltd

THE Black Country could get more train services if the controversial high-speed route rail route goes ahead, according to a Government minister.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond said the initial phase of the £32 billion HS2 scheme from London to Birmingham would free-up capacity on the West Coast Mainline which serves Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

He claimed there would be a significant increase in commuter, regional and freight services.

Some 11 extra services would run on the line every hour, he said, meaning thousands of extra seats, fewer crowded trains and a more reliable, quicker, frequent service for commuters in rush hour.

It could even mean cheaper fares.

### Doubling

Direct services from Lichfield Trent Valley to London Euston would increase from 15 to 27.

Mr Hammond said: "Our proposed new high speed rail network would free up a huge amount of space on current railways for more trains to operate. Building a whole new line would create scope for people who live near the current stations to get more frequent services that are less crowded. I would also hope that this additional competition could mean cheaper fares."

"Passengers in some towns could see a near doubling in the number of trains from their station to London."

Anti-HS2 campaigners have questioned whether the controversial route through the West Midlands is necessary. HS2 Action Alliance believes passenger capacity can be increased by around 135 per cent by making better use of existing track.

### Kitchen damaged by blaze

A COOKER caught fire when a woman left sausages frying in a pan while she answered the phone. The kitchen at a three-storey block of bedsits in Dixon's Green Road, Dudley, was badly smoke-filled and the oven was destroyed.

The woman, in her 20s, had already escaped when fire crews were called at about 8.50am last Thursday.

# Fast and furious fun as the superhero tag teams battle

## Marvel vs Capcom 3: Fate of Two Worlds (12, Capcom)

DELIRIOUS, neon-coloured beat 'em up heaven. Marvel comic book and Capcom video game characters clash in three-a-side tag team battles which will have your fingers in a frenetic blur on the buttons and joystick to create and counter mind-blowing fighting moves. Fast, furious and fun that's up with the best of Street Fighter.

## Topspin4 (3, 2k Sports)

Warm up for Wimbledon with this excellent championship tennis sim from 2K's Czech developers.

The tutorials help novices quickly pick up the intuitive controls, showing you how to perfect a powerful serve and return a ball with interest. Button combinations and good timing allow you to add spin. The graphics are good, if not stunning, with a roster of 25 past and recent champions (and Andy Murray). An immersive career mode awaits dedicated players and there is an online world tour mode for those who want to take on other gamers.

Easy to pick up but harder to master,

Topspin4 is a satisfying virtual court experience, less flashy but more rewarding than many of its tennis sim rivals.

## MotoGP 10/11 (3, Capcom)

For all the extensive details of the superbikes, riders, tracks and teams, plus downloadable content as the 2011 MotoGP unfolds, this still feels like an arcade racer... and that's not a bad thing. You get screaming, knee to the track, high speed action in a variety of racing modes, including time trial or the extensive career option for the serious racer, and the opportunity to join up to 20 racing online.

Somehow bike racers can't achieve as strong an illusion as the best four wheel race sims; maybe you need one of those motorway service station arcade bikes, but the latest redesigned instalment in the Moto GP franchise is about as good as it gets so far.

### Xbox Live Arcade titles:

## Swarm (12, Hothead)

Herd your 100 little blue critters through a platform world and try to keep as many alive as possible to progress. This will not be easy in a hostile, collapsing environment but reach certain key points and you will refresh and

# Knight time is right time for Sims

## The Sims Medieval (12, EA)

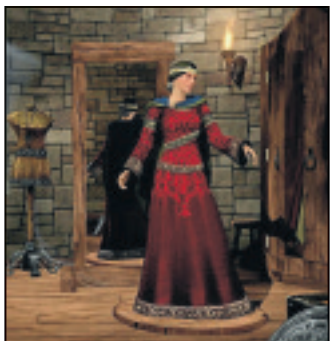
The top PC game gets a medieval makeover, so as well as dating, marrying, raising kids and all that life stuff, now you can create your own damsels in distress and knights to remember.

This isn't another expansion pack but rather a stand alone title, using the Sims 3 engine, so it will feel familiar to all those control freak Sim addicts out there, whilst also bringing in quest elements somewhat akin to the Fable titles and popular online medieval adventure Runescape.

After a voiceover by Shakespearean former Starship commander Sir Patrick Stewart (who else?) you start at the top as the monarch and choose an ambition for your kingdom, whilst tweaking your attire and abode to your own exacting standards. You can choose your own personality traits, such as 'adventurous' or the more weird 'whale ate my parents', the latter involving lots of angry shouting at the sea. Then you go on to accomplish your quests as a variety of Sims in this enchanting fairy tale land, including knight, bard, wizard and blacksmith – but watch your behaviour or you may end up in the stocks.

It's an excellent new twist on the Sims experience which should be near the top of the PC games chart for some considerable time to come.

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## thechronicle

Air gun  
yobs kill  
park carp  
in attack

YOBS armed with an air gun have destroyed plaques made by schoolchildren and killed a fish in a "sickening" attack at a Bewdley beauty spot.

Vandals struck at Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Gardens, off Load Street, leaving the trail of destruction in their wake.

Shots were fired into an ornamental pool at the park, resulting in the death of the golden carp, and the plaques were used as target practice. They had been made by schoolchildren with the names of plants in the park, which is to the rear of Bewdley Museum.

Wyre Forest District Council said it would look at improving security around the park.

Bewdley town councillor Derek Killingworth said it had been heartbreaking to see the recent damage.

Curtain call for  
aspiring star

A YOUTH theatre company in Wolverhampton is on the lookout for a young male actor to take part in a summer festival. Central Youth Theatre will be staging a festival called Everybody Dance Now, which is inspired by the London 2012 Olympics.

The group is now on the lookout for a performer aged over 15 to take a lead role in a performance of Soul Seekers. For more information, call 01902 572091 or email [jan@centralyouththeatre.org](mailto:jan@centralyouththeatre.org)

Day dad helped catch bear  
with his box of Swan Vestas

Les Baker, with a photo of his father, at the same spot the 1944 shot was taken

DUDLEY Zoo was his playground as a child – with the castle as an unusual climbing frame.

And more than 70 years later, former keeper Les Baker had a trip down memory lane when he returned to his childhood home.

His first visit to the zoo was in 1937 – the year it opened – with his father, who became the elephant keeper at the complex.

George Edward Baker was in charge of elephants until his death in 1952. He had been working with elephants at a travelling circus but wanted to settle down and brought his young family from the south of England to the Midlands. One of the attractions for George was that the job included family accommodation in Castle



Les's father, George, who was the zoo's elephant keeper, seen with Indian elephant Maharanee in this picture from around 1940-45

Lodge set within woodland in the zoo grounds.

His son says he can clearly remember living in the lodge, which has since been demolished. The 77-year-old, of Woodsetton, said: "As a lad living on site, I loved it."

"Imagine having a zoo as your playground, and there is no part of Dudley Castle that I haven't climbed at some time."

## Courage

He also recalled tales from his father's time at the zoo, including a sticky situation on a summer's day in the late 1940s.

He said: "Dad paraded an elephant on the forecourt of the elephant house for the benefit of a throng of visitors when a woman lost control of a pushchair, with her child inside it, as she was manoeuvring it down steps."



Former big cat keeper, Les Baker, of Woodsetton, with Asiatic lion Itar, one of the animals at Dudley Zoo

"She emitted a piercing scream that caused the elephant to panic and circle around wildly, trumpeting very loudly and flapping her ears. That forecourt cleared in seconds, and I personally observed one rather large male visitor vault the fence that borders the hill down to the turnstile area."

"Thankfully, dad finally brought the trembling elephant to a stop, crooning to her, as was his wont, and not for the first time in my life I had reason to reflect and admire my dad's courage."

Mr Baker's brother Len saw an earlier example of their father's bravery.

Father and son were on their way home, and when they got to the bear pit saw to their astonishment that a Himalayan brown bear had dug underneath the high fencing to get out.

Les said: "The bear was shuffling about

on the other side of the fence that separated the zoo from the public road. Dad quietly instructed Len to hot-foot it back to the stores for re-inforcements, while he kept the bear distracted by lighting and flicking the contents of his box of Swan Vesta matches towards the escapee. I don't know if the bear was subsequently netted or tranquilised but he was recovered."

## Cartoonist

As schoolboys Les and Len worked part-time looking after the pony rides, and almost inevitably Les joined the zoo when he finished his education, working with lions from 1949 to 1950. He later became a cartoonist working under the name Clebak.

He said: "I left in 1950 but always treasured my time living and briefly working at Dudley Zoo."

Teens in  
push to  
promote  
training

TWO Tipton teenagers are backing a drive to get more Asian youngsters to take up apprenticeships.

National figures show that fewer than 10 per cent of apprentices come from minority groups.

But with the help of Pamela and Nadia Begum, charity Rathbone is convinced they can help 300 more young people to get the training they need to find work in the recession.

Although not related, Nadia and Pamela have been close friends during their pre-apprenticeship course in childcare at Rathbone's Sandwell training centre on Sedgley Road West.

Pamela, aged 17, who will start a work placement and Level 2 Apprenticeship programme soon, said: "School was alright but at Rathbone there is more support."

Discount deal  
for gym users

NEW deals for gym users have been announced for leisure centres in Dudley borough.

Options Lifestyle memberships are available for £75 if taken out anytime during April.

For just £75 anyone can take out an Options Lifestyle membership anytime during April and pay nothing until August 1.

The standard rate of membership is currently £29.50 per month and the sale offers a saving of over £40 over the four months.

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The circuit is famous for being one of the fastest and most challenging tracks, testing even the best driver's skills to the limit.

After victory in front of his home fans in 2008, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to emulate this success again, whilst Jenson Button would love to win at Silverstone and join the list of elite British drivers to win in front of a home crowd, including Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

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# the pulse

## We will rock you, say Brian and Kerry as they launch tour

QUEEN guitarist Brian May and showbiz singing star Kerry Ellis, who first found fame creating the role of Meat in the hit West End musical *We Will Rock You*, are joining forces on tour.

It follows the singer's debut album *Anthem*, which was produced by and featured the superstar rock guitarist.

Kerry, who has also played Elphaba in *Wicked*

and Nancy in *Oliver!* on the London stage, included revamped versions of *Defying Gravity* and *I'm Not That Girl* from *Wicked* and eight May songs on the album.

They will be appearing together in *Anthem* The Concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday, May 9. Call the ticket hotline on 0121 780 3333 or visit the [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) website.



TV listings start - page 20

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING**



Theatre and show round-up - page 19



Reviews and guides - page 24



Former Wolverhampton music student and X Factor contestant Treyc Cohen

## Wiz of a role for X Factor's Treyc

She's famous for being a finalist in the UK's biggest talent search.

Now, Treyc Cohen will be centre stage once again playing the role of Dorothy in the award-winning musical *The Wiz* in Birmingham this summer.

The *Wiz* is a wonderful soul musical based on *The Wizard of Oz*. Having premiered on Broadway in the 70s.

It then went on to become a cult movie by Motown Productions in 1978 starring Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and Richard Pryor.

And Treyc is thrilled to be making her first appearance in

a musical: The former Wolverhampton University music student says: "On the X Factor I was singing in front of millions of viewers every week, but I can't wait to be singing live in front of an audience every night."

"You get so much back from people; it's the best feeling in the world."

### Auditions

"The *Wiz* is a fabulous musical and so this really is a dream come true for me."

Tamworth-born Treyc entered the X-Factor for the first time in 2009 and got as far as the boot camp auditions at Simon Cowell's house but didn't make it through to the live finals. However, she

returned stronger and more determined in 2010 and was chosen from thousands as Cheryl Cole's 'wild card' over 25s act.

Having got through to the final 16 performers for the live final, Treyc was eliminated during a sing-off with controversial contestant Katie Waissal.

The *Wiz* will open in Birmingham at the New Alexandra Theatre from 10 to 18 June.

Tickets are available on 0844 871 3011 or at [newalexandratheatre.co.uk](http://newalexandratheatre.co.uk).

The *Wiz* is part of Birmingham Repertory Theatre's 2011 off-site season as the theatre undergoes development as part of the new Library of Birmingham.

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## the pulse

### Atoms get big headline break in LA

A BLACK Country rock band has secured headline shows in Los Angeles in California, after wowing an '80s music legend.

Electro rock group Isolated Atoms have been invited to play a series of shows to record executives at Universal Studios next month, after being given air-time on Combat Radio/LA Talk radio network.

The band won American radio acclaim after becoming favourites of Derek Forbes, bassist in legendary '80s band Simple Minds, who DJs on Combat Radio/LA Talk.

#### Launch

And the Scottish star was so impressed with the band, not only did he play their records on air, but he also joined them on stage for the launch of their single Play.

Lead singer Grant Leon Ashman, from South Road in Stourbridge, said: "He found us online and was listening to our music and said he'd like to join us."

"So we sent him all the music before our single launch and he learned the songs and came and played with us at St Paul's Gallery in Birmingham in February."

"It was pretty surreal to be playing with such a massive star," he said.

The band has been together for almost three years and is made up of lead guitarist Mark Neat, from



Jake Osei-Tutu, David Davies, Grant Leon Ashman and Mark Neat

Quarry Brow in Gornal, bass guitarist David Davies and keyboard player from Romsley Road in Stourbridge and drummer Jake Osei-Tutu, from Hampstead Terrace in Wednesbury.

Steve Burrows, managing director of PPS Music Ltd in Kidderminster, has guided the band since discovering them in The Wharf Bar in Walsall, two years ago.

He said the America trip was a golden opportunity for the band to impress "across the pond".

Mr Burrows said: "After 18 months of hard work and with some incredible new material

ready to showcase this might just be the break Isolated Atoms need. "The guys will grab this opportunity to show the States just what the Black Country can offer," he added.

#### Influential

Singer Grant Leon Ashman, aged 24, added: "It's going to be a great experience with influential people hopefully coming to see us. "We've never been further afield than Scotland and England on tours before so for us to be talking about Hollywood Boulevard now is amazing."

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The cast of David Simpson's play *The Naked Truth*, which is about a group of women taking up a pole-dancing fitness course, will be at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre



Todd Carty - Patsy in Spamalot

# Never mind the spoof, Phill is Spamalot's star

COMEDIAN Phill Jupitus, best known for his regular appearances on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *QI*, will be taking on a regal air when he plays King Arthur in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

It's not Phill's first experience treading the boards, he dragged up to play Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* in the West End.

Hit musical *Spamalot*, written by former Wolverhampton schoolboy Eric Idle, is a combination of favourite sketches from Monty Python and *The Holy Grail* and songs spoofing the conventions of musical theatre.

Other members of the cast include former East Enders Todd Carty as put-upon servant Patsy, Jessica Martin as the showbiz diva Lady

of the Lake and former Avenue Q star Simon Lipkin as Sir Galahad. It runs from Monday to the following Saturday.

Meanwhile, kids' favourite double act The Chuckle Brothers give Harry Potter the Chuckle treatment in Barry Potts and his Full Blood Brother Paul in *The Ghostly Shadows* at the Grand on Saturday and Sunday.

## Fitness

The legend lives on in Michael Jackson tribute show *Thriller Live* at Birmingham Hippodrome, which features Birmingham singer Hayley Evetts, on until April 30.

David Simpson's play about a group of women taking up a pole-dancing fitness course, *The Naked Truth*, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 26 and

27. The cast includes Leanne Jones, the award-winning star of *Hairspray*, alongside Maureen Nolan, Sarah White and Nikki Sanderson.

Claire Sweeney sings *Take That Look Off Your Face* and new song *Dreams Never Run On Time* in the revamped version of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday* at Stoke's Regent Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Jonathan Slinger follows in the footsteps of some of the greatest actors of Shakespeare when he takes on the role of Macbeth at the re-opened Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Michael Boyd's production opened last week and will remain in repertoire at Stratford until October 6.

Comedy highlights include Milton Jones at the New Alex on Saturday and Mark Thomas has sold out his *Slade Rooms* gig in Wolverhampton on Wednesday, April 27.

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## Choice



## CSI: NY

Channel 5, 10.10pm

The discovery of a young woman's body slumped against piles of rubbish in an alleyway and with a needle hanging out of her arm makes some believe she is the tragic victim of a heroin overdose. Of course, nothing is ever as it seems in this show, and closer inspection reveals that someone else may have had a hand in administering the fatal drugs. Mac arrives on the scene and recognises the victim as Tessa James. They had crossed paths a year earlier, when she approached the detective in the street with unusual stories. Tessa's autopsy proves her death was set up to look like an accident, so Mac starts to wonder if her stories could have had some truth in them.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 11.45 Football Focus. 12.30 Match of the Day Live. Cardiff City v Queens Park Rangers (Kick-off 12.45pm). 3.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second round continues in Sheffield. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.25 Don't Scare the Hare.

6.00 Doctor Who. New series. Return of the sci-fi adventure. The Time Lord meets Richard Nixon. 6.45 So You Think You Can Dance. The contestants perform in couples. 8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. 8.50 So You Think You Can Dance. The dancers with the lowest vote perform again. 9.20 Casualty. The truth about Warren's death is revealed when a distraught Nita scales a fire tower with a bottle of vodka, and Polly's attempts to help Hannah Fleet have tragic consequences. 10.10 BBC News; Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Everton; National Lottery Update. 11.50 The Football League Show; Weatherview. 1.20 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.10 CBBC. 12.00 Film: Spirited Away. (2002) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. 2.00 Being Alice - Adventures in Wonderland. 2.30 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further second-round coverage from Sheffield. 5.30 Flog It! (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. The hapless soldiers tackle a fire. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Second-round coverage from Sheffield.

8.00 The Belfast Blitz. People remember the bombing raids 70 years on.

9.00 Ruth Jones' Easter Treat. Chat show, with guests Dawn French, Michael Sheen and Tim Minchin.

9.45 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Rhod Gilbert.

10.30 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. Chris Addison and Sarah Millican join the presenter in Norwich. (R)

11.00 Nurse Jackie. The nurse evades O'Hara's questions about her fake MRI.

11.30 Later with Jools Holland. Music by Hugh Laurie, kd lang, Fleet Foxes and Vintage Trouble. (R)

12.30 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.20 Snooker Extra. 2.40 Close.

## ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 Coronation Street. 11.45 This Morning; Saturday. 12.45 Monk. 1.45 ITV News; Weather. 1.50 Film: Arthur 2: On the Rocks. (1988) Comedy sequel, starring Dudley Moore. 4.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 4.30 Regional Programmes. 4.45 ITV News; Weather. 5.00 March of the Dinosaurs.

7.00 Sing if You Can. Sheila Ferguson, Ricky Groves and Brenda Edwards take on Gemma Merna, Shaun Williamson and Matt Stevens in the celebrity singing challenge. Keith Lemon and Stacey Solomon present.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host as judges Amanda Holden, Michael McIntyre and David Hasselhoff continue their search for the nation's most impressive performers. 9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Patsy Palmer. The EastEnders actress talks about her career and personal life. 10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.15 FILM: Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller.

11.50 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Kelly Holmes and Jenni Falconer try to win money for charity. (R)

12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Swinging. 3.35 ITV News. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

## Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 FIM Superbike World Championship. (R) 7.30 British Formula 3 International Series. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Friends. (R) 9.25 T4: Koko Pop. 9.55 T4: Arthur: T4 Movie Special. 10.25 T4: Glee. 11.25 T4: Great British Hairdresser. 12.25 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 That Paralympic Show. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. 7.00 River Cottage Best Bites. (R)

8.00 Meet the Middletons. Examining Kate Middleton's extended family, including a hairdresser believed to be a distant relative, and exploring Prince William's fiancée's links to working-class ancestors. (R)

9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Quiz show. 10.20 Stand Up for the Week. 11.05 FILM: Rising Sun. (1993) Thriller, starring Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes.

1.25 Mesh. (R) 1.40 The Sex Education Show: Stop Pimping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Coming Up: The Future Wags of Great Britain. (R) 3.05 Running in Heels. (R) 4.10 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

## Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 How Do They Do It? (R) 10.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.30 Essex Jungle. (R) 12.35 Film: Slappy and the Stinkers. (1998) Teen comedy adventure, starring BD Wong. 2.05 Film: Tinker Bell. (2008) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. 3.35 Film: Hook. (1991) Peter Pan adventure, starring Robin Williams.

6.25 5 News Weekend. 6.30 NCIS. (R)

7.20 NCIS. Part two of two. Gibbs goes after Ari. (R)

8.10 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. The team is assigned to investigate the apparent kidnapping of a baby from a wealthy Las Vegas family, but Grissom struggles to maintain an air of professional detachment. (R)

9.10 CSI: Miami. Horatio returns from Rio to lead the hunt for missing team-mate Callaghan, who has been kidnapped by a criminal duo hoping to use her crime-scene expertise to cover their tracks. (R)

10.10 CSI: NY. The detectives investigate the death of a conspiracy-obsessed woman. 11.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 4.10 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.35 HouseBusters. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## Digital

## ITV2

3.30 Britain's Got More Talent 4.30 American Idol 7.00 Fiddles, Cheats & Scams 8.00 Help! I Caught It Abroad 2 9.00 Britain's Got More Talent 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.45 Film: American Pie 2 (2001)

## ITV3

3.35 Film: On the Buses (1971) 5.25 Film: Mutiny on the Buses (1972) 7.15 Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) 9.00 Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) Comedy, starring Sid James. 11.00 Film: Up Pompeii (1971)

## ITV4

3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Kings XI Punjab. 7.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 9.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 10.00 Film: Smokin' Aces (2006)

## BBC THREE

7.00 Doctor Who Confidential 7.45 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) 10.55 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 11.40 Family Guy

## BBC FOUR

7.00 Yellowstone 8.00 If Walls Could Talk: The History of the Home 9.00 Sport 10.50 Twenty Twelve 11.20 Top of the Pops: 1976 11.50 Secrets of the Arabian Nights

## E4

1.25 Hollyoaks 4.00 Make It or Break It 5.00 Friends 6.00 Glee 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 9.00 50 Greatest Wedding Shockers 11.05 The 50 Funniest Moments 2010

## FILM4

2.50 Shane (1953) 5.10 Time Bandits (1981) 7.25 P'Tang Yang Kipperbang (1982) 9.00 No Country for Old Men (2007). Thriller, starring Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones and Javier Bardem. 11.20 Carrie (1976)

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## Choice



### PERSPECTIVES: LOOKING FOR LOWRY

ITV1, 10.15pm

The South Bank Show is no more, but documentary lovers needn't worry – here's a new series to get your teeth into. Unlike its Melvyn Bragg-hosted predecessor, Perspectives won't focus only on the arts, but instead will feature a wide variety of subjects. Nevertheless, it kicks off with a focus on Laurence Stephen Lowry who is, without doubt, one of Britain's most famous painters. Ian McKellen hosts the programme, which takes a fresh look at Lowry through the eyes of those who knew him and by visiting some of the places he knew best.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Easter Day Eucharist from Salisbury Cathedral. 11.00 Urti at Orbi. 11.35 The Story of Jesus. 12.35 BBC News: Weather. 12.45 Regional Programme. 1.30 Film: Mary Poppins. (1964) Disney musical fantasy, starring Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, Glynis Johns and David Tomlinson. 3.45 Life of Riley. (R) 4.15 Life of Riley. (R) 4.45 Lifetime. 4.55 Points of View. 5.10 Songs of Praise. 5.45 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Land Girls. Bea falls for an Italian PoW. (R)

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury report on the latest rural developments. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. From Winchester Cathedral.

9.00 Britain's Royal Weddings. Conclusion. How traditions have changed in recent years.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Bee Gees: In Our Own Time. The band discusses their career.

11.25 TOTP2: Bee Gees Special. The Bee Gees talk about and perform some of their favourite tracks. (R)

12.10 The Graham Norton Show. (R) Weatherview. 1.00 Sign Zone: Britain's Royal Weddings. (R) 2.00 Holby City. (R) 3.00 The Baby Born in a Concentration Camp. (R) 3.30 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 8.05 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.30 EastEnders. 2.25 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of two second-round matches. 5.45 Easter from King's – Passiontide to Easter Day.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Rishi Persad presents further coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

7.45 Top Gear Bolivia Special. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May drive 4x4s from the rainforest of the Amazon basin to the coast of Chile, tackling one of the world's most dangerous roads on the way. (R)

9.00 United. Drama based on the story of the 1958 Munich air crash which claimed the lives of 23 people, including eight Manchester United players. Starring David Tennant and Jack O'Connell.

10.35 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray presents highlights of the day's only Premier League match, which saw Bolton Wanderers welcome Arsenal to the Reebok Stadium.

11.25 Snooker: The World Championship.

12.15 Snooker Extra. 2.15 BBC News. 3.30 The Super League Show. 4.15 Close.

## ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 10.25 Sing if You Can. (R) 11.25 This Morning: Sunday. 12.25 Dinner Date. (R) 1.25 ITV News: Weather. 1.30 Film: Columbo: Try and Catch Me. (1977) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.00 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 4.00 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (2005) Children's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp.

6.05 Regional Programmes. 6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 The Cube. Two more contestants take up the challenge.

7.30 Coronation Street. Sean heads to London for Easter, while Todd returns to Weatherfield.

8.00 Lewis. When a woman is murdered, it appears to be a blackmail plot gone wrong, but as the body count rises, Lewis realises an old secret lies at the heart of the case. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Looking for Lowry. Ian McKellen examines the life of artist LS Lowry.

11.15 Flight of Faith: The Jesus Story. A journey through the life of Christ. (R)

12.15 Premiership Rugby Union. 1.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Film: Yu-Gi-Oh! (2004) Animated adventure, with the voices of Dan Green, Eric Stuart and Scottie Ray. 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

## Channel 4

6.05 Sali Mail. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 The Grid. 7.30 Freeports on 4. 7.55 T4: Friends. (R) 8.25 T4: Friends. (R) 9.00 T4: Hollyoaks. 11.30 T4: Being N-Dubz in America and Beyond. (R) 12.00 T4: Example: Video Exclusive. 12.05 T4: Glee. (R) 1.05 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.35 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.05 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.40 Film: Home Alone 3. (1997) Comedy sequel, starring Alex D Linz. 4.35 Deal or No Deal. 5.30 Time Team.

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. A Roman Catholic considers the importance of Easter.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants do battle in Southampton.

8.00 The Hotel. A troublesome toilet causes chaos at a wedding.

9.00 Country House Rescue. A Welsh stately home owner struggles to cope with her debts.

10.00 FILM: Elizabeth. (1998) Elizabeth I's rise to the throne is threatened as enemies within the court and overseas plot to bring about her downfall. Historical drama, with Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush.

12.20 Film: The Japanese Wife. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Rahul Bose. 2.10 Strictly Lady Sumo. (R) 3.05 Secret Life of the Classroom. (R) 4.00 Leaving Home at 8. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

## Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Floortots. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.40 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) 6.50 The Beeps. (R) 7.00 Miao. (R) 7.10 Chiro. (R) 7.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 7.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 Hana's Helpline. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Milkshake Monkey. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Family! (R) 8.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 8.50 Thomas & Friends. (R) 10.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 10.15 K-9. 10.50 OK! TV Sunday. 11.50 Family Food Fight. (R) 12.20 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 1.25 Film: Genghis Khan. (1965) Historical adventure, starring Omar Sharif. 3.55 Film: William & Kate. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based drama, with Nico Evers-Swindell and Camilla Luddington. 5.45 5 News Weekend. 5.55 Film: Bewitched. (2005) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman.

7.50 FILM: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver.

10.00 The Walking Dead. Rick embarks on a perilous rescue mission.

11.05 FILM: Pacific Heights. (1990) Psychological thriller, starring Michael Keaton.

1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 4.10 Divine Designs. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## Digital

ITV2  
4.30 Britain's Got Talent 5.30 Britain's Got More Talent 6.30 The Only Way Is Essex 8.00 Kerry Katona – The Next Chapter 9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Patsy Palmer 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.45 Film: The Whole Ten Yards (2004)

ITV3  
3.25 Film: Are You Being Served? (1977) 5.20 Film: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) 7.15 Film: On the Buses (1971) 9.00 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) 11.00 Film: Steptoe and Son (1972)

ITV4  
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Red Heat (1988) 11.05 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors

BBC THREE  
7.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) 9.00 Police Academy UK 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 White Van Man

BBC FOUR  
7.00 A History of Christianity 8.00 Vatican: The Hidden World 9.00 Holst – In the Bleak Midwinter 11.20 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel

E4  
3.00 Make It or Break It 4.00 Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) 6.00 Friends 7.00 90210 7.55 Friends 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 Being Erica 11.55 The 100 Greatest Stand Ups 2010

FILM4  
3.05 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) 4.50 Napoleon Dynamite (2004) 6.40 Chariots of Fire (1981) 9.00 Dogma (1999). Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. 11.20 Fight Club (1999)

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5lb Pork Loin Chops .....	£1.49lb = £3.28 kilo
5lb Sliced Belly Pork .....	£1.29lb = £2.84 kilo
5lb English Loin Lamb Chops .....	£2.99lb = £6.59 kilo
Whole Fresh English Legs of Lamb .....	£3.48lb = £7.67 kilo
2lb Pack Fresh Short Back Bacon-Mild Cured .....	£3.99 per pack
11lb Fresh Chicken Fillets .....	£25.99

Whole small USA Grainfed Silversides of Beef .....	£2.88lb = £6.35 kilo
Whole Fresh Ribeyes .....	£6.99lb = £15.41 kilo
Whole Fresh Beef Fillets (Chain off) .....	£9.99lb = £22.02 kilo
5lb Extra Lean Diced Scotch Beef .....	£2.88lb = £6.35 kilo
5lb Scotch Feather and Blade Steak .....	£2.98lb = £6.60 kilo
5lb Chuck Steak .....	£2.48lb = £5.48 kilo
5lb Shin of Beef .....	£1.99lb = £4.39 kilo
5lb Mince Beef .....	£1.99lb = £4.39 kilo

## MEAT PACK

10 Mixed Grills	<b>£49.99</b>
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10 Lamb Loin Chops	
10 Pork Loin Steaks	

Whole B/Less Pork Loins .....	£1.99lb = £4.39 kilo
Whole Horseshoe Gammons, B/Less .....	£1.89lb = £4.16 kilo
Whole B/Less Pork Legs .....	£1.48lb = £3.26 kilo
Whole Drafts of Pork .....	£1.59lb = £3.50 kilo
1/2 English Lambs .....	£2.69lb = £5.93 kilo
1/2 Pig .....	£1.38lb = £3.04 kilo

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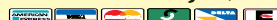
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## the pulse

## Monday

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 When Royals Wed. 9.45 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 10.45 Don't Get Done. Get Done. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.45 BBC News. 1.05 Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Film: Muppet Treasure Island. (1996) Musical comedy, with Tim Curry. 2.45 Film: Chicken Run. (2000) Animated comedy, with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha. 4.05 Film: Bee Movie. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. 5.30 All New Topical Pops. Celebrity Special. 2. 6.30 BBC News. 6.50 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Bang Goes the Theory. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.10 Regional News; Weather. 10.15 QI. 10.45 A Question of Sport. 11.15 The Football League Show; Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone. Britain's Royal Weddings. (R) 1.40 Arctic with Bruce Parry. (R) 2.40 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.10 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Animal Park. (R) 12.30 Badminton Horse Trials. Live coverage of the final day from Gloucestershire. 3.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The conclusion of two second-round matches. 4.20 Final Score. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of the opening two quarter-finals. 8.00 Britain's Next Big Thing. 9.00 A History of Celtic Britain. 10.00 Later Live - with Jojo Holland. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.30 The Super League Show. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.20 This Morning. 11.15 Loose Women. 12.00 Film: The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. 1.40 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Inspector Morse. (R) 4.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.15 This is Michael Buble. 12.15 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.15 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 2.50 ITV Nightscreen. 4.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

**Channel 4** 6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 Freshly Squeezed. 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.45 Frasier. (R) 8.15 Friends. (R) 8.40 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.35 Seven Ages of Britain. (R) 10.35 Film: The Ten Commandments. (1956) Biblical epic, starring Charlton Heston. 2.40 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Stomping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Luncetime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.20 Film: King of Kings. (1961) 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 6.55 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 7.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Extraordinary People: The World's Heaviest Man Gets Married. (R) 11.00 Film: Buster. (1988) 1.00 SuperCats. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

## Tuesday

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Done. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holly City. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Prison Restaurant. 11.25 The Lock Up. (R) 11.55 Film: Hunt for Justice. (2005) Fact-based drama, starring Wendy Crewson; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone. Michel Boux's Service. (R) 2.30 23 Week Babies: The Price of Life. (R) 3.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening day of the quarter-finals. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of the opening two quarter-finals. 8.00 Britain's Next Big Thing. 9.00 A History of Celtic Britain. 10.00 Later Live - with Jojo Holland. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.30 The Super League Show. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 6.45 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Military Driving School. 8.00 Countrywise. 9.00 When Kate Met William: A Tale of Two Lives. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.30 The Super League Show. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**Channel 4** 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.10 Film: The Nutty Professor. (1963) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Stomping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Luncetime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.25 Film: Backyard Wedding. (2010) Drama, starring Alicia Witt and Frances O'Connor. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. Angelo offers Nicole a shoulder to cry on. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs; 5 News Update. 8.00 William and Kate: The Story So Far. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.15 SuperCats. 4.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.15 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

## Wednesday

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Done. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 DIY SOS: The Big Build; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 Life of Riley. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Would I Lie to You? (R) 11.15 Film: Casanova. (2005) Romantic period drama, with Heath Ledger and Sienna Miller. National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 1.05 Sign Zone. See Hear. 1.35 Watchdog. 2.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 3.05 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Liffeline. (R) 1.40 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 5.10 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The remaining two quarter-finals are set to be decided. 8.00 Giles & Sue's Royal Wedding. 9.00 The Crimson Petal and the White. 10.00 The Victorians. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker: The World Championship. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 UEFA Champions League Live. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker: The World Championship. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**Channel 4** 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 9.00 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.10 Film: The Nutty Professor. (1963) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Stomping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Luncetime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.25 Film: Backyard Wedding. (2010) Drama, starring Alicia Witt and Frances O'Connor. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. Angelo offers Nicole a shoulder to cry on. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs; 5 News Update. 8.00 William and Kate: The Story So Far. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.15 SuperCats. 4.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.15 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

## Thursday

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Done. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Watchdog. 9.00 Rock & Chips. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 11.15 This Week; Holiday Weatherview. 12.05 Sign Zone. Too Fast to Be a Woman? The Story of Casler Semenyi. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.40 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the first semi-final. 5.10 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second semi-final gets under way at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 9.00 Sir Bobby Charlton: Football Icon. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.00 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 BBC News. 2.55 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 William and Kate: In Their Own Words. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker: The World Championship. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**Channel 4** 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 Film: Robin and Marian. (1976) Medieval adventure, starring Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Stomping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Luncetime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.25 Film: Backyard Wedding. (2010) Drama, starring Alicia Witt and Frances O'Connor. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.25 How Do They Do It? (R) 7.55 Live UEFA Europa League Football. 10.00 Film: In Hell. (2003) 12.05 SuperCats. 4.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.15 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

## Friday

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 8.00 The Royal Wedding. 1.40 BBC News; Weather. 2.00 Regional News; Weather. 2.10 The Royal Wedding. 4.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 4.05 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) 4.35 Film: Shrek. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mike Myers. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The Royal Wedding. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 11.15 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.25 The One Show. (R) 12.25 Film: Hope Springs. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Colin Firth and Heather Graham; Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone. Madagascar. (R) 2.55 Michel Boux's Service. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 6.20 Animal Park. (R) 7.05 Film: A Conversation with Gregory Peck. (1959) Interview with the screen icon. 8.30 Film: Spellbound. (1945) Hitchcock thriller, starring Gregory Peck. 10.20 Film: Duel in the Sun. (1946) Western, starring Gregory Peck. 12.25 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second session of the second semi-final. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third session of the opening semi-final. 9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus. 10.00 Frank Sinatra: Opinions. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Royal Show; Weather. 11.50 Later with Jools Holland. 12.50 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.40 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 William and Kate: In Their Own Words. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker: The World Championship. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

**Channel 4** 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 3 Minute Wonder: Second Lives. (R) 1.10 Film: The Bridge on the River Kwai. (1954) Korean War adventure, starring William Holden. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Stomping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Luncetime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.25 Film: Backyard Wedding. (2010) Drama, starring Alicia Witt and Frances O'Connor. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.25 How Do They Do It? (R) 7.55 Live UEFA Europa League Football. 10.00 Film: In Hell. (2003) 12.05 SuperCats. 4.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.15 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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## the pulse

# Musicals moving to Midlands

**I'm more like Gary – Simon**

SELF-TAUGHT blues guitarist Simon McBride is preparing to bring his mix of exceptional guitar skills and gritty vocals to Bilston's Robin 2 on May 10.

The former Young Guitarist of the Year has now grown into a fully-fledged rock virtuoso and is visiting the Midlands in support of his second studio album, *Since Then*.

His influences range from Jimi Hendrix to Free guitarist Paul Kossoff, but he compares himself mostly to Gary Moore.

He said: "We both show lots of aggression, passion and emotion when we're on stage. "If I could be compared to Gary Moore I'd be very happy."

The Irishman has recently finished a tour supporting rock legend Joe Satriani, who McBride was a big fan of as a youngster.

He said: "I taught myself guitar by playing a lot of his songs. Playing with Joe made me feel like a kid again, it was amazing."

Tickets for the gig at Robin 2 cost £12.50 advance and are available from [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or £14.00 on the door.



Self-taught guitarist Simon McBride

THREE big West End musicals that have been recent or continuing hits in London are coming to the West Midlands on tour.

The award-winning *Legally Blonde The Musical*, the Savoy Theatre hit based on a Reese Witherspoon movie, is coming to Birmingham and Stoke. Californian homecoming queen Elle Woods doesn't take no for an answer.

So when her boyfriend dumps her for someone serious, Elle

puts down the credit card, hits the books, and heads for Harvard Law School accompanied by her loveable Chihuahua, Bruiser.

The role of Elle on stage made actress Sheridan Smith one of the hottest talents in the theatreland.

## Brings

The current West End cast is led by Susan McFadden.

*Legally Blonde* will be staged at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre from September 20 to October 1 and then at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre

from October 4 to 12.

Sister Act, the London Palladium hit derived from a Whoopi Goldberg movie, brings soul singing nuns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from February 7 to 18, 2012.

Dirty Dancing, a West End smash based on the Patrick Swayze movie, will come to Birmingham Hippodrome as part of its first national tour, which will be next summer's big blockbuster in the city, staged next year from July 4 to August 25.

# Merlin gala just magic

STARS of top TV fantasy show *Merlin* attended a gala evening at Warwick Castle to see the opening of the castle's latest visitor attraction, *Merlin: The Dragon Tower*.

Irish actress Katie McGrath, who plays the beautiful witch Morgana, was joined by Angel Coulby, who plays Gwen, and King Uther Pendragon himself, actor Anthony Head, formerly of hit American TV series *Buffy The Vampire Killer*.

A fourth guest was the aptly named Warwick Davis, a familiar TV and film face who had a guest role in the third *Merlin* series and will be returning as the goblin Griphook in the final *Harry Potter* movie.

The actresses were among the first guests to experience the new attraction featuring live actors, a recording of *Merlin* actor Richard Wilson in his role of Gaius, Camelot's court physician, and an audience with *The Great Dragon*.

Without revealing too many of the surprises in store

for visitors, they will come face to face with the dragon in a magic mirror and find that he interacts with the audience.

Castle general manager Tim Harrison-Jones said: "We are the first and only attraction globally to have the rights to use the *Merlin* brand and it will be perfectly executed."

"We want people to feel as though they are walking into the TV show or stepping back in time to a world of wizardry and wonderment."

## Surprise

McGrath and Coulby, who are currently working on the fourth series of *Merlin* in Wales and France, said they enjoyed the *Dragon Tower* experience, especially the dragon's parting surprise.

The launch last Wednesday was rounded off by a spectacular firework display.

Ticket prices are cheapest online at [www.warwickcastle.com](http://www.warwickcastle.com) and, including all the attractions, are £22.08 (11 and under) and £26.88 (12 and over), or £91.80 for a family of four (two adults and two children under 12).

## Dancing on Ice Tour, NIA, Birmingham

YOU have no doubt seen it on TV but nothing beats the live performance.

For weeks I sat every Sunday night glued to the television – disturb me at your peril – watching *Dancing on Ice* but the live tour, which stopped off at Birmingham's NIA last week, is something else.

The dancing, choreography and acrobatics are simply amazing.

Following the same format as the TV show the couples battle it out for a place in the final to dance the Bolero, made famous of course by Torvill and Dean.

The five competitors to be voted through to the second stage were reigning champion Sam Attwater, last year's winner Hayley Tamaddon, Vanilla Ice, Chloe Madeley and Laura Hamilton.

The other three, Denise Welch, Comedy Dave and VC hero Johnson Beharry went out in the first text vote. The two in the final were Sam and Hayley but it was Hayley who took the trophy with a perfect routine.

The choreography in Sam's Bolero was excellent but a few mistakes cost him the trophy. No doubt he will make up for it on other tour nights.

The judges were Olympic gold medalist Robin Cousins, coach Karen Barber and Grand Theatre panto star Christopher Biggins, who had debuted as a judge in 2010. Guest judge was Zoe Tyler, who not surprisingly gave her fellow Loose Women star Denise a perfect 10 – definitely not on merit!

A fantastic night with all the text money going to charity but just two criticisms – entertaining as Biggins is his judging on performance was way off the mark and brought boos from the audience and there was a lot of feedback from the microphones of Torvill and Dean so a lot of what they said was lost.

But the skating itself scored a perfect 10.

Sue Attwater

## Reviews

### Christy Moore, Birmingham Town Hall

THE pretty much packed Birmingham venue seemed to bring out the best of the Kildare balladeer Christy Moore who, ably assisted by fellow guitarist Declan Sinnott, played for two hours solid for the appreciative crowd who lapped up every note.

Moore's voice, as rich and creamy as the head of a well-poured Guinness, took his army of fans from a frenzy of clapping and wanting to join in with the familiar lyrics of songs such as *Don't Forget Your Shovel* to reducing them to silent awe with a wonderfully moving a cappella rendition of *Spacill Hill*.

With some light heckling from the crowd Moore warmed to his audience, even giving in to shouts of Joxer, which he duly played with gusto, but pulled the plug when others thought they could control the concert with his friendly putdown of "I'm not a jukebox".

Moore mostly kept away from the more familiar anthems which even those outside his army of fans may know but delighted the crowd nonetheless with hauntingly lyrical renditions of *The Cliffs of Doonee*, *Ride On*, *So Do I* and *Does The Train Stop at Merseyside*.

There were of course his signature guitar hammering songs *Lisdoonvanna*, *Ordinary Man* and *Yellow Triangle*.

And just to make sure he was covering all the bases he even threw in the Christmas song *Fairytale of New York* just for good measure at Easter, as part of the encore.

Danny Farragher

# It's the return of Northern Soul

REGULAR Northern Soul nights will return to Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on a quarterly basis from this autumn.

Former Wigan Casino DJ Kev Roberts will be joining forces with

former Club Lafayette DJ Mike Hollis, Stoke pair Nige Brown and Sean Chapman, plus the Black Country's own Little Scotty at the Mitre Fold venue, spinning stompers and other floor fillers from the 1960s and

70s on Friday, September 9, from 8.30pm to 3am.

Meanwhile, the civic bar on the same night will be offering club classics, jazz funk and house anthems from the 80s and 90s.



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## Sunshine holiday with chance to buy house of your dreams

UNUSUAL viewing arrangements have been organised for a mill house with 10th century origins near Siena in Tuscany.

Worcestershire and Shropshire estate agent Phipps & Pritchard is marketing a lovingly restored house which is on the market for £835,000. Prospective buyers are being offered the chance to enjoy a week-long break from May 27 in the countryside

where the property is situated with further options for second or third viewings.

The estate known as 'Mulino di Sopra', owned by Sarah and Dominic Gothard, is within an hour's drive of the historical cities of Florence, San Gimignano and Monteriggioni plus the Arezzo with Marina di Grosseto beaches and two good golf courses, also within a 45-minute drive.

The break includes discounted accommodation at three various star hotels and a five-course lunch with local wines at a tavern owned by a chef who trained at The Savoy.

A wine tasting tour of the acclaimed Banfi vineyard nearby can also be arranged. The estate was in a dilapidated state of repair and required total renovation. The house dates back to 976AD.

It is set in a total area of 1.5 hectares with professionally landscaped grounds including a swimming pool.

Accommodation includes a 39ft x 20ft bedroom with designer bathroom and a second double bedroom. The first floor includes a fully fitted kitchen/dining room. Details by email from zherbert@phippsandpritchard.co.uk or call 01562 822244.



Located in Pedmore on the outskirts of Stourbridge is this striking Elizabethan-style home

## Fairytale ending for luxury home near Stourbridge

ASTRIKING, Elizabethan-style property on the outskirts of Stourbridge is set to be given a fairytale ending thanks to the special projects division of award-winning Black Country property developer.

Selbourne Homes is responsible for Thorngrove, a unique four-bedroom home with a raft of impressive features including stone fireplaces, solid oak beams, a wine cellar and minstrels' gallery style landing, situated on Bromwich Lane, Pedmore.

Virtually completed, the home which is within walking distance of Hagley Village, had stood empty for eight years until Selbourne Homes took it over. "This is a really exciting project and it takes us into a whole new market," says Gavin Warr, Selbourne Homes' managing director.

"After eight years of no activity, it's great

for the community to see things moving forward again.

"We're confident it won't be long before Thorngrove gets snapped up by a savvy buyer looking for something out of the ordinary."

Effortlessly combining traditional features with 21st century luxury, Thorngrove has been designed and built to exacting standards by skilled craftsmen. As well as a stunning central dining hall, the ground floor boasts a fully-fitted kitchen, cloakroom and utility room plus two further reception rooms, one of which features an inglenook stone fireplace.

### Traditional

Access to the walled garden at the back of the house is through the rear lobby and steps lead from the dining hall to an extensive basement area with exposed brick walls – the perfect location for a wine cellar.

Upstairs, four good-size double bedrooms, each with their own en-suite facilities, are situated on the first floor while the

second floor comprises two gabled rooms which are ideal for a home office and games room.

"The house is being marketed by The Lee, Shaw Partnership and according to the firm's senior partner, Peter Davenport: "It's a real gem."

He explains: "If you're after wow factor, Thorngrove is the home to buy. "I've worked with Gavin Warr for more than 20 years and regardless of whether he's building one-off properties or large scale developments, I've always been impressed by his expertise and the quality of fit out," he says.

"I've no doubt Thorngrove will be very special once it's complete."

A guide price of £700,000 has been listed and if buyers act quickly, there is still an opportunity to influence final fit out.

For more information on Thorngrove, contact The Lee, Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066.

Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688

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HALESOWEN, PARK LANE

A large Four bed detached family, briefly comprising of: Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Garage and Driveway Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden

£650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HADEN ROAD

A part furnished or unfurnished large 1930s detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Driveway for 2 Cars, Front and Rear Gardens

£650 PCM



HAGLEY, MILL POOL CLOSE

A luxury first floor apartment recently refurbished and briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Large Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Benefits include Communal Gardens, Garage En Bloc, Highly Sought After Area, Private Entrance, Fantastic Countryside Views. Not To Be Missed.

£650 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An Unfurnished detached house within a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WESLEY CLOSE

An unfurnished modern house, close to shops and local transportation, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Allocated Parking Spaces

£525 PCM



WEST BROMWICH, WESTLEY COURT

An unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£525 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, HACKETT ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached family home in a popular location, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Dining Kitchen, Guest WC, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Driveway Parking

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, ROUNDHILLS TERRACE

A lovely unfurnished mid terraced house, briefly comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Gardens

£495 PCM



WEST BROMWICH, WESTLEY COURT

An unfurnished modern second floor apartment, briefly comprising, two bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space

£495 PCM



BEARWOOD, HAGLEY ROAD

A furnished to suit 2nd floor flat above shops, close to local shops and buses into Birmingham city centre, briefly comprising of: One Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, On Road Parking

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WYCHERLEY WAY

A part furnished to suit first floor apartment, on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

An unfurnished split level flat, close to shops, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Living Room, Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY COURT, HAGLEY ROAD

A beautiful Part furnished ground floor apartment, close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Communal Garden and Allocated Parking Space

£475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, GREENWOOD AVENUE

A Well presented throughout end terraced house, close to local schools briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen with Utility Area, Good Size Bathroom with Shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens

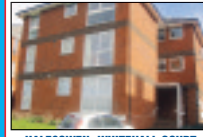
£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, COCKSHEDS LANE

A furnished to suite first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Shower Room, Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Communal Gardens, and On Road Parking

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITEHALL COURT

An unfurnished ground floor apartment in a sought after location, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Large Living Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens and Carport to the Rear

£425 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, NORWOOD ROAD

Unfurnished end terraced house briefly comprising of: Gas central heating, Living room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs bathroom with shower, two bedrooms, Rear garden, On road parking

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, ROOM AT KENT ROAD

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£395 PCM



ROMSLEY, ST KENELMS ROAD

A Double Room to Rent in a three bedroomed Semi-Detached House in a Sought After Location, the house has Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Broadband and is Inclusive of All Bills

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHORT STREET

A fully furnished double bedroom in a terraced house share home. Gas central heating and double glazing, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC and Utility, Bathroom with Both Bath and Shower. RENT INCLUDES ALL BILLS.

£385 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

An unfurnished ground floor apartment, well presented throughout. Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom with Built In Wardrobes, En Block Garage.

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## HALESOWEN



## King Charles Road

- \* Superior detached house
- \* Replanned and extended
- \* Exceptional specification
- \* Lounge \* Sitting room
- \* Open plan kitchen & family room
- \* Five beds \* 2 baths \* Shower
- \* Garage with room over

Offers in the region of  
**£575,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Mucklow Hill

- \* Extended detached house
- \* Four bedrooms
- \* Breakfast kitchen & utility
- \* Three reception rooms
- \* Extensive gardens
- \* Must be viewed

Offers in the region of  
**£339,950**

## ROWLEY REGIS



## 4 Yates Lane

- \* brand New 2 bedroom starter home
- \* double glazed windows
- \* Fitted kitchen with appliances
- \* en suite bathroom or shower room to each bedroom
- \* gas boiler/radiator heating
- \* intruder alarm

Monthly rent of **£550**

## DUDLEY Tipton



## 29 Old Port Close

- \* Second floor flat
- \* One bedroom
- \* Open plan lounge/ kitchen
- \* Allocated parking
- \* Electric heaters
- \* Kitchen with host of appliances
- \* Available now

Monthly rent of **£365**

## HALESOWEN



## Manor Lane

- \* Extended detached family home
- \* Three good bedrooms
- \* Extended lounge \* Dining area
- \* Fitted cloakroom
- \* Pleasant rear garden
- \* Some upgrading required

Offers in the region of  
**£297,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Mucklow Hill

- \* Semi detached bungalow
- \* Lounge \* Kitchen
- \* 2 bedrooms
- \* Dining room (potential bed 3)
- \* Enclosed garden/sitting area
- \* Garage

Offers in the region of  
**£265,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Sunningdale

- \* Link detached family house
- \* Sought after location
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Through living room
- \* Pleasant rear garden
- \* Vacant possession

Offers in the region of  
**£250,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Astley Crescent

- \* Extended semi detached
- \* Extended kitchen/dining room
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Good sized rear garden
- \* Side garage
- \* Further potential to extend

Offers in the region of  
**£214,950**

## HALESOWEN



## Astley Avenue

- \* Traditional semi detached house
- \* Sought after location
- \* Good sized rear garden
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* No upward chain

Offers in the region of  
**£214,950**

## CRADLEY HEATH



## 32 Spinners End Drive

- \* Self contained ground floor flat
- \* One bedroom
- \* Living room with electric fire
- \* Kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- \* Bathroom
- \* DG windows
- \* Night storage heating
- \* Available now!

Monthly rent of **£365**

## CRADLEY HEATH Old Hill



## 144 Halesowen Road

- \* First floor flat
- \* One bedroom
- \* Large living room
- \* Double glazed windows
- \* Electric heating
- \* Residents parking
- \* Convenient location

Monthly rent of **£345**

## HALESOWEN



## Woodbury Road

- \* Extended link detached house
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Extended kitchen
- \* Family Room
- \* Downstairs Shower Room
- \* Well appointed Bathroom

Offers in the region of  
**£209,950**

## OLDBURY



## Hawthorn Croft

- \* Semi detached
- \* three bedrooms
- \* through lounge comprising living room and dining room
- \* breakfast room
- \* downstairs wc
- \* garage

Offers in the region of  
**£205,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Hollybank Grove

- \* Spacious semi-detached house
- \* Desirable family home
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* In need of updating
- \* No upward chain

Offers in the region of  
**£159,950**

## HALESOWEN



## Summerfields Avenue

- \* Semi detached house
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Extended
- \* Needs modernisation
- \* Great potential
- \* Cash offers only

Offers in the region of  
**£120,000**

## HALESOWEN



## Churchill Road

- \* First floor flat
- \* 2 Bedrooms
- \* Re fitted kitchen
- \* Re fitted bathroom
- \* Garage
- \* Popular location

Offers in the region of  
**£114,950**

## BRIERLEY HILL

Quarry Bank  
Flat 23B High Street

- \* One bedroom flat
- \* Kitchen with oven and fridge
- \* Bathroom with shower over bath
- \* Bedroom with wardrobe
- \* Unfurnished
- \* Ideal for access to Merry Hill
- \* Available now

Monthly rent of **£300**

## DUDLEY Tipton

Victoria Works R/o 75-77  
Queens Road

- \* Pleasantly situated storage unit, double garage and yard suitable for a variety of uses including a builder's yard having planning consent for a bungalow. Gross internal area: 165.38 sq.m. (1,779.41 sq.ft.)

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west mercia  
HOMES



# Time your home had annual 'health check'

WITH spring now here, it's a good time for homeowners to give their homes a 'health check' after the harsh winter weather.

People living in houses built in the last 10 years will typically have to deal with less maintenance, as the build quality and energy efficiency of new homes is superior to that of older properties.

The National House-building Council (NHBC), which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2011, has issued advice to homeowners on how to keep everything in order and protect their investment.

The NHBC works to raise the construction standards of new homes and provide protection for new homeowners.

Its Buildmark warranty covers more than 80 per cent of new homes built in the UK and currently protects approximately 1.7 million homes, giving homeowners assurance and redress if anything goes wrong.

These are the items worth checking in an annual review:

#### Inside

■ **Heating system:** As the weather gets warmer, adjust central heating to a summer setting to save energy. This is a good time to bleed radiators too, to get rid of air pockets. It is recommended that boilers should be serviced each year, to ensure that they are working with maximum performance and safety. Contact a Gas Safe certified installer to carry out an annual check now.

■ **Smoke detectors:** If detectors run on batteries, these should be checked and replaced if necessary. All detectors should be replaced after ten years.

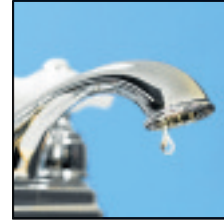
■ **Carpets:** Make sure that carpets and rugs are secure, particularly in areas of heavy use like doorways and stairs. If carpets are loose or frayed, consider replacing them, to prevent trip hazards.

■ **Home security:** Check the locks on all doors and windows, to see if they are in working order.

■ **Taps:** Dripping taps waste vast amounts of water. They may need the old washer changing for a new one.

#### Outside

■ **Roofing:** Look at roofs from the outside,



Check that dripping taps and a too-high thermostat are not wasting money and if the smoke alarm needs a new battery



to see if any tiles are cracked or have slipped; these will need replacing by a professional roofer.

■ **Guttering:** Check for damage and clear away blockages that may have accumulated over the winter months. Blockages can be bad news and lead to water damage, so make sure guttering is cleared at least once a year. For safety reasons, this should be carried out by a professional.

■ **Woodwork:** This needs preserving against weather conditions. Timber windows and doors need repainting every three to five years; make a painting plan of action in the drier summer months.

■ **Garden fencing:** This provides homes

with security, therefore it is important to check garden fencing for any damage and maintain its good condition.

A quick home health check will identify areas that need attention and catch problems at an early stage. Carrying out regular maintenance ensures a home is kept in good condition, making it more pleasant to live in, more energy efficient and cheaper to run, and increasing its residual value.

Further advice for homeowners on property maintenance and other issues can be found in NHBC's useful publication, A Guide to your new home - a practical guide to looking after your new home, freely available at [www.nhbc.co.uk/homeowners](http://www.nhbc.co.uk/homeowners).



Clear away the debris that has built up in the gutters over the winter



Check the outside of the house to see what needs to be repainted

## Easter Season Opening Hours

DATE	EVENT	HALESOWEN	NORTHFIELD	CRADLEY HEATH	EDGBASTON
22.04.11	GOOD FRIDAY	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM
23.04.11	SATURDAY	9.00-5.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM
24.04.11	EASTER SUNDAY	10.00-5.00PM	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
25.04.11	BANK HOLIDAY	10.00-4.00PM	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
26.04.11	TUESDAY	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM
27.04.11	WEDNESDAY	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM
28.04.11	THURSDAY	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM	9.00-7.00PM
29.04.11	ROYAL WEDDING	9.00-4.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM
30.04.11	SATURDAY	9.00-5.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM	9.00-12.00PM
01.05.11	SUNDAY	10.00-5.00PM	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
02.05.11	BANK HOLIDAY	10.00-4.00PM	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES

**FOR APPOINTMENTS AND EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL:**

**HALESOWEN: 0121-422-5411**  
**NORTHFIELD: 0121-475-4828**  
**CRADLEY HEATH: 01384-564868**  
**EDGBASTON 0121-429-2829**

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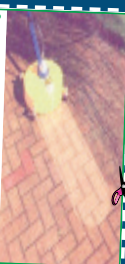
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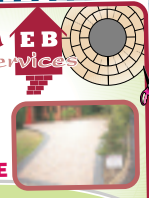
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# Easy ways to enjoy baskets of colour

HANGING baskets are a great way to add a splash of colour to the outside of your house.

They look beautiful, smell lovely and can be planted up with just about anything. They're also really easy to do, here's a step-by-step guide:

## Choose your plants

The first thing you need to do to create a beautiful hanging basket is to choose the plants and there are plenty of choices for spring baskets including primroses, pansies, viola etc

Whatever plants you decide to use, it's really important to make sure they're healthy. Looks for ones with several stems as they'll grow better.

Also, you don't have to just grow flowers in your basket, strawberries and tomatoes grow really well in hanging baskets too.

## Choose your basket

There are three types of basket you can choose from. Each one has its own benefits, but the choice you really comes down to what you like.

**Wire-mesh baskets:** These allow for planting in both the sides and top of the hanging basket.

**Rattan baskets:** These look great and have a plastic liner for water retention.

**Plastic baskets:** These insulate against the wind and sun, so are better at holding on to water. But they can't have the sides planted.

## What you need to buy

The number of plants you'll need depends on their size and type, but for a standard 35cm wire-mesh basket you will need about: 1-3 centre plants, 5 plants for colour, 7 to 9 trailing plants

For a plastic or rattan basket with solid sides you will need fewer plants. Allow for about: 1-3 centre plants, 3 plants for colour, 6 trailing plants.

Whichever basket you choose you'll also need to buy: Hanging basket compost or peat-free multi-purpose compost (about 12 litres for 35cm basket), wood-fibre basket liner or moss, controlled-release fertiliser granules (only needed if using multi-purpose compost), Water-retaining gel (only needed if using multi-purpose compost)

## Prepare the hanging basket

First of all, put your basket on a bucket for stability (it'll help when planting). Then



Hanging baskets brighten up the garden – and smell good too!

use a wood-fibre liner or moss to line your basket. To help even more with water retention, put a saucer (or piece of bin bag) at the bottom of the basket. Now mix some compost with a handful of controlled-release fertiliser granules and some water-retaining gel. Add it to the basket and pat it down until it's about 8cm below the top.

If you've used moss to line the basket push some compost up at the edges and pull some moss over the top of it - this will give the plants a soft edge to trail over.

## Plant the basket

If you're using a wire-mesh basket, start from the bottom and work your way up the sides. Plant one set of trailing plants just above the saucer (or bin liner), and another set about 8cm below the top of the basket.

To make life a bit easier, wrap the root-balls of the plants in small plastic bags or newspaper to push them through the mesh. But don't forget to remove these before you cover the plant with soil.

As soon as you've positioned all the side plants, add more compost to within 2cm of

the basket rim. Now add in the centre plants. Before you remove them from their containers, give them a good drink of water. Firm the soil around base of each plant and sprinkle another tablespoon of controlled-release fertiliser granules over the soil.

## Water and feed

Hanging baskets are really easy to look after - but are susceptible to the cold. Here's a guide on when to water and where to position them.

On hot, dry days, water the basket straight away (one or twice a day) and hang it in the shade for a while.

On cold, damp days, wait until it warms up a bit before watering.

In normal weather conditions hang the basket outside wherever you like.

## Feeding

As for feeding, even if you've used a controlled-release fertiliser with your compost, your plants will benefit from extra feeding - especially during the growing season in spring and summer.

• Information from Homebase

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The new pro\_ceed "4" comes with 17in alloy wheels and black

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Sunrise 3 wheel, great condition,  
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storage stool, very good  
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FENDER STRAT Jap 1986 serial  
no F017001 minor wear 3 colour  
sunburst lacquer maple board  
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£15ph. 07532 308257.  
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compact three quarter piano  
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**Boot Sales 8am - 2pm.** All on B4176 Rabbit Run off A454 between Dudley and Telford by TFM. WV15 5LS

## SUPER SATURDAY BOOT SALE AND BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

**10am - 2pm.** Bigger Field Barrack's Lane off A461 and A5 Walsall Wood, between Walsall and Lichfield

## BEST SATURDAY BOOT SALE 8am - 2pm

on bigger field. A454 Rudge Heath. By Royal Oak Pub

## BEST SUNDAY BOOT SALE 10am - 2pm

Every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday. Cocksparran Lane, off A54, Huntington, Cannock

## BEST WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE 10am-2pm

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30ft x 10ft, 2-bedrooms. Situated on small quiet park. (Only 10 Caravans) Sorry no children. Immaculate condition. £19,950. 01545 561138.

## NR CARAVAN AWNING, size 8

grey/burgundy, excellent condition. £150. 01902 605943.

## 2008, 5berth, immaculate condition

including £2,000 of accessories, still under warranty, full service history. £9,000. 07971 882584.

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AVONDALE CHILDREN

1996, 2 berth, oven, hob, fridge, toilet/shower, awning, with bedroom annex, plus many extras. £1,995. 01562 829882.

Immaculate 1

AVONDALE OSPREY 4 berth, end washroom, full oven, blow air heating, no smokers, pets/ children. Mature owners (retiring). Extras available. (Stourbridge area) £6,200 ono. Telephone 07869 637788.

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four berth, excellent condition, £4,500. Call 01902 863030.

BAILEY PAGEANT IMPERIAL

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BAILEY PAGEANT PREVIEW

2003, 5 berth, L shape shower, separate shower, awning, extras, £7,500 ono. 01902 379065.

BAILEY PAGENT CHAMPAGNE SERIES 5

2005, end shower room, new fitted carpets, Status digital antenna, Sun Camp porch awning, Motomover, including many extras. £8,000. 01299 875652 or 07331 875916.

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6-berth, 2005, fixed bunk beds, Heki sunroof, van master moveable awning. All mod cons. Excellent condition. £6,600. 07852 475586.

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Diesel, 03 reg, 85,300 miles,  
10 months MoT, new clutch.  
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Telephone 01902 326686.

**RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0**  
Petrol, 99 reg, exec. leather,  
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170,000 miles.  
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1.4, 16v, Autentique, 51 reg.  
5-dr hatch, metallic blue, tax,  
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throughout.  
£1,295 o.n.o.  
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**RENAULT SCENIC** Expression,  
auto, 16, 05 reg, 40,500 miles, fsh.  
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**ROVER 25 SLI** 1998, Tax April,  
MoT Nov 2011. FSH, 2 owners, full  
leather interior, sunroof, £500.  
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**ROVER 25 SLI** 58k miles, tax  
August, MoT December, some  
history, 5-dr, green, £500 o.n.o.  
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**ROVER 25** 1.4 2004, 3dr, silver,  
excellent condition, new clutch,  
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W reg, 61,000 miles, excellent  
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**ROVER 25 ESTATE** 33 reg, 1.8,  
reg, MoT, 67,000 miles, sh,  
leather interior, alloys, £1,500 no  
offers. 07890 447101.

**ROVER ASCOT** 100, 1997, 89,700  
miles, British Racing Green,  
alarm, MoT, central locking,  
sunroof, tax, stereo, petrol, £450.  
07814 490919.

**SEAT AROSA 1.0MPI** R reg, MoT  
Jan, tax, power steering, fsh, metal  
blue, very good condition, 2895  
ono. 07773 384170.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI**  
3dr, 52 plate, metallic blue,  
MoT and Tax, A/C, E/W, CD  
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£1,400 o.n.o.  
Telephone 07974 568917

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** 52 reg,  
122,000 miles, black, abs, electric  
windows, air bag, MoT, central  
locking, pas, diesel, tax, alloys,  
CD, £1,300 ono. 07946 834225.

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1991, white, 1.4 petrol, short  
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condition.  
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matic, 2.0, silver, tax and MoT end  
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MoT, 7 seater, V reg, diesel,  
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16v, 1999, LPG conversion,  
69,000 miles, silver, abs, electric  
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con, pas, sunroof, alloys, 7  
seater, excellent condition.  
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central locking, alloys, CD,  
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**VW BORA 1.6S** Petrol, 52 reg, 6  
months tax, MoT, 144,000  
miles, £1,050 ono.  
07930 354768.

**VW POLO 1.4** 5dr, 1996, white,  
over 12 months MoT no tax, good  
runner, 89k, 5499 o.n.o.  
07957 749574.

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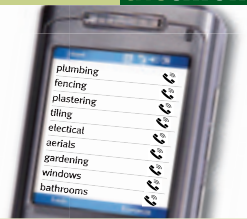
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# sport

## Russ hat-trick shatters Bustleholme

BEWDLEY gave an impressive performance against fourth placed Bustleholme as they geared up for Tuesday's WFA Senior Urn Cup Final.

Chris Hough opened the scoring from Bewdley's first corner of the game, rising above the opposition defence to head home.

### Bustleholme 0 Bewdley Town 5

Five minutes later Dan Flowers floated a cross into the path of Russell Godfrey who looped a brilliant header over the Bustleholme keeper. Godfrey got his second

on the half hour mark after some quick flowing interplay through the midfield. Just before half time, a long clearance was flicked on by Hough for Chris Seekings to run on and round the keeper to gain a 4-0 lead at half-time.

Bustleholme came out in the second half determined

to get back into the game, and it was the turn of Bewdley's goalkeeper Grant Morris to produce three outstanding saves. On 75 minutes Bewdley got a fifth as Russ Godfrey completed a hat-trick.

Joint manager Brian Lacey was full of praise. "To go to Bustleholme

and come away with a 5-0 win is some achievement as they have only lost four games all season and I think they were stunned by the pace at which we played.

"We came away from Shifnal in the week with a 1-0 win and the signs were there then."

# YELTZ DENIED BY A LATE SICKENER

Didcot Town 1 Halesowen Town 1

RELEGATED Halesowen played for pride and were only denied an heroic victory by a 94th-minute equaliser in a spirited performance at desperate Didcot Town.

The Yeltz remain unbeaten on their three trips to Oxfordshire this season and Gareth Davies went close to giving the visitors a 12th-minute lead when his 20-yard half-volley hit the post.

Halesowen's pressure was finally rewarded by a 23rd-minute goal when captain Mark Smith played a neat pass forward for Kevin Moncheu to roll the ball past goalkeeper Sam Warrell into the net.

## Hearn pots winning shot for Saxons

AN OUTSTANDING display by full-back Jamie Hearn, who topped off a personal tally of 16 points with a nerveless match-winning penalty in the 82nd minute, provided the highlight of a thrilling National One encounter.

The Stourbridge pack's dynamic driving lineup was responsible for half of the side's six tries.

It meant that Cinderford suffered their first home loss since November. This five-point haul confirmed the Saxons' National One status for another season, writes Paul Smith.

After home full-back Danny Trigg opened the scoring on 11 minutes with a 40-metre penalty, Stourbridge flanker James Rodley claimed the first of the visitors' driving lineup scores.

### Dominated

Cinderford dominated the second quarter to notch up three tries in 10 action-packed minutes.

Scrum-half Luke Carter scuttled through a gap to touch down the opener before centre Lloyd Stapleton finished off another sweeping move.

Trigg added the extras before outstanding handling saw hooker Sam Wilkes crash over.

The Saxons needed a response and Greg King duly obliged. He knifed through a gaping hole in midfield, to leave Hearn with a simple conversion on the half-time whistle.

After Trigg's second penalty extended the Foresters' advantage to nine points, another

### Cinderford 38 Stourbridge Saxons 41

remarkable 10-minute spell saw the pendulum swing in both directions.

Saxons' winger Matt Williams dotted down following a mistake by Nevaro Codlin, then another Saxons' catch and drive brought a converted try for James Freeman.

Stour prop Andy Lawrence and his opposite number Paul Price saw yellow, courtesy of a full and frank exchange of views - and punches - before Trigg kicked a third penalty and converted a score from flanker Dean Jenkins.

Not to be outdone, Saxons' fly-half Sam Robinson produced a lovely piece of skill, to weight a cross-kick perfectly into the path of Hearn to score.

The visitors' hooker Liam Wordley completed his team's hat-trick of driving lineup scores at the start of the final quarter, only for the home side to bounce back once again, when prop Chris Bundy finished off a multi-phase attack.

This set the scene for Hearn's grand finale, a perfectly struck 45-metre penalty. Determined defence then preserved the win.

## Gymnasts jumping for joy

### Pupils beat 15 schools to win shield

GYMNASTICS acers of the future gave a five-star performance at a recent Dudley tournament.

Pupils from Hunt-Intree Primary School in Halesowen triumphed in the South Dudley Primary School Gymnastics Championships.

Five of their Year 2 pupils won individual gold medals and the whole team came home with a trophy for the school, performing floor routines and a vault jump.

### Proud

Harvey Welding, Callum Davis and James Knight, all aged seven, and six-year-olds Amelia Kinghorn and Shaylee Stamps triumphed ahead of 15 other Dudley schools.

The tournament was held at Leasowes Community College and Hunt-Intree teacher Laura Baker said: "They performed brilliantly and did us proud."



Winners, front from left, Shaylee Stamps and James Knight and, back from left, Harvey Welding, Amelia Kinghorn and Callum Davis

## Lloyd's double helps United

### Heath Hayes 2 Causeway United 3

UNITED maintained their recent good run of results with an outstanding second-half performance at Newlands Lane.

United went into the break goalless despite going close with efforts from Aaron Lloyd, Craig Gregg and Scott Stevenson.

They broke the deadlock on 47 minutes when Lloyd netted from the penalty spot after Sam Beasley had been felled by Bradley Woolridge.

Three minutes later the visitors were unfortunate not to double their advantage when a diving header from Adam Meacham was turned round the post by Hayes keeper Dan Ware.

### Sloppy

Against the run of play, Hayes fought back with Ben Haseley levelling on 64 minutes as United were punished for sloppy defending.

However, United regained the lead eight minutes later when Lloyd made easy work of a Craig Gregg through ball to finish.

A treble substitution helped United take control and a three-man move saw Stuart Howe hit a post and Wells convert the rebound.

Five minutes from time Ben Haseley beat Matt Siddaway but in stoppage time saw Siddaway block his effort.

### Dudley 53 Buxton 37

TEENAGE hopeful Ashley Morris came off age as Dudley took a big step towards National League Shield success.

The 16-year-old went through the card at Monmore Green on Tuesday to record his first NL maximum with five perfect rides.

He was sharp from the start, mature in both his pace and selection of lines and a direct benefit of his Premier League experience with Edinburgh - dominant in the first corner.

His win over the speedy Adam Allott brought a cheer second only in volume to the one which greeted his fifth and final victory.

Morris had only one moment of anxiety, hitting the shale in heat 14 as he and John McPhail touched on the run to the first corner. Referee Jim Lawrence called all four back and Morris made no mistake at the second attempt.

### Epic

Roynon would surely have joined him on the maximum mark but for what he later described as "an epic fail" in boarding a new and untried machine first time out.

Following a second place it was jettisoned in the pits, the Cumbrian turning to his customary steed and thereafter going unbeaten. With those two in top form and Barrie Evans a fine stand-in for the injured Jon Armstrong, Dudley had top-end clout to spare.

Although Tom Perry struggled for his customary form, Richard Franklin chipped in with a paid half-dozen while Darryl Ritchings, a tidy stylist who is advancing under the radar, again proved the late lynch-pin as the Heathens blitzed the final three heats 15-3 to take a 16-point advantage to Buxton.

Sunday's second leg, Dudley: Ashley Morris 15, Adam Roynon 13+1, Barrie Evans 9+1, Darryl Ritchings 6+1, Richard Franklin 5+1, Tom Perry 4, Luke Chessell 1.

Buxton: Adam Allott 10, Robert Branford 8, Luke Priest 6+2, Ben Trickett 4, Dean Felton 4, John McPhail 4, Ryan Blacklock 1+1.

## Sophie's choice is the cup final winner

### Girls Cup Finals

#### Halas Hawks 2 Kewford Eagles 1

A SPECULATIVE shot by Sophie Heaselgrave won the cup final for Halas under-12s.

Halas scored midway through the first period when Lucy Heaselgrave found the keeper to put Halas in front but it took some sterling defensive work from Esme Moran, Francesca Hancox and Chloe Gregg to keep them there although Lucy Heaselgrave did hit the bar.

Gornal 3 Halas Hawks 2

Halas led 2-0 in the under-13s final but ruled missed chances. Sophie Pritchard and Amy Blakemore netted just before half-time with a deflected

shot. Sophie Heaselgrave's effort bounced over the keeper to put Halas in front but it took some sterling defensive work from Esme Moran, Francesca Hancox and Chloe Gregg to keep them there although Lucy Heaselgrave did hit the bar.

Gornal 3 Halas Hawks 2

Halas led 2-0 in the under-13s final but ruled missed chances. Sophie Pritchard and Amy Blakemore netted just before half-time with a deflected

own goal. Blakemore hit the woodwork and Gornal got the winner.

#### Halas Hawks 2 K'minster Lions 1

An under-strength under-15s team pulled off a fine win against a team challenging for a top two spot.

Kidderminster led but Halas levelled when Hannah Williams lashed home a cross by Lauren Taylor.

Charlotte Little put Halas ahead and several fine saves by Olivia Woolams gave them the win.

### Boys League

#### Kewford North 0 Halas Dynamos 6

The under-12 Dynamos ended Kewford's hopes of the runners-up spot with a fine performance. Goalscorers were Dalmar Morrison (3), Jordan Boffey, Callum Priest, and Jack Blunt.

Kewford West 3 Halas Hawks 6

Goals for Tom Bagley (2) and Dominick Hipkiss (2) plus a Jack Guest goal and a Michael Eaton penalty won it for the under-13s.

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